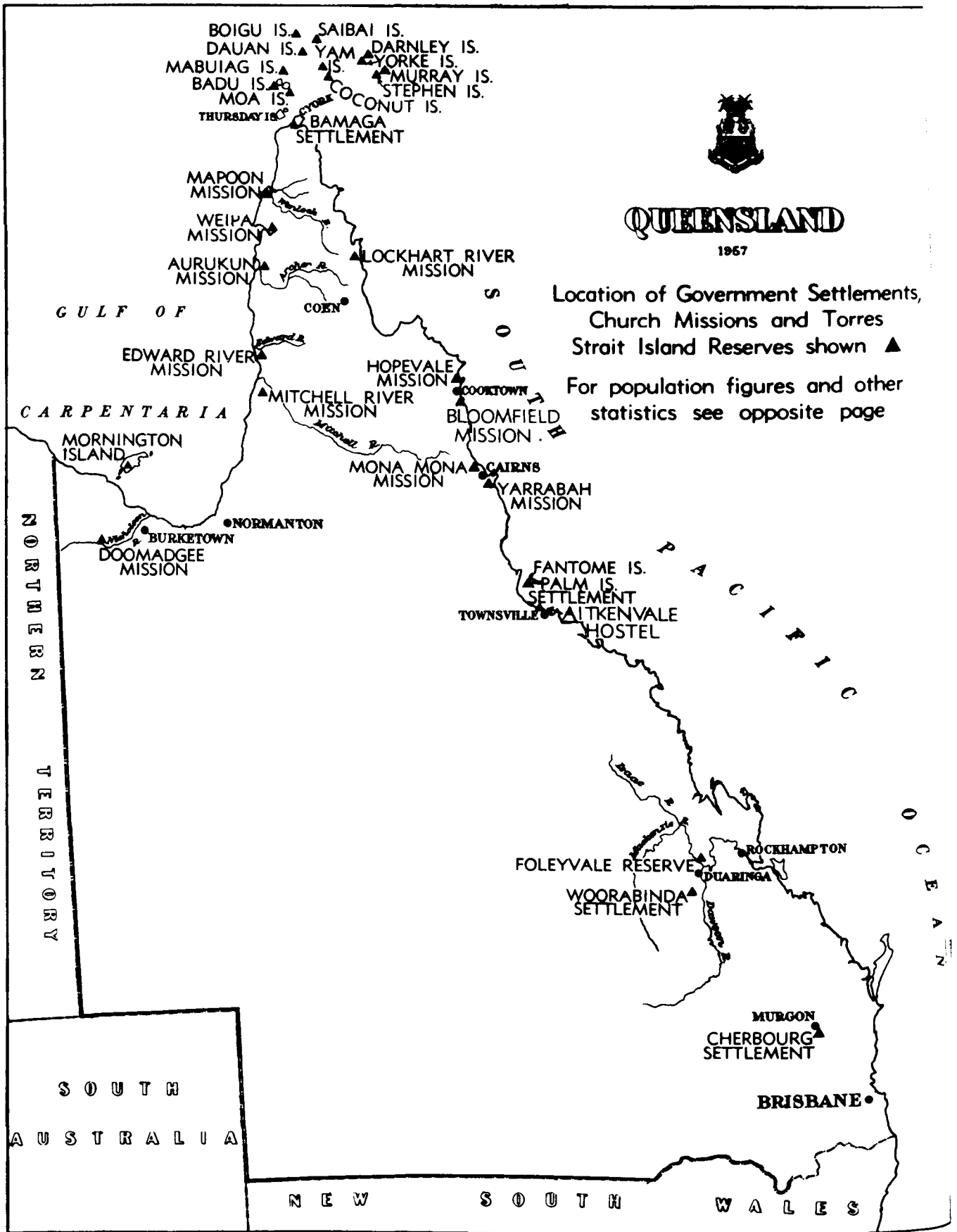

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Information contained in Report
of Director of Native Affairs
for the Twelve Months ended
30th June, 1958.



Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1958.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report under “*The Aboriginals’ Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946,*” and “*The Torres Strait Islanders’ Acts, 1939 to 1946,*” for the year ended 30th June, 1958.

Queensland’s population of controlled and non-controlled aboriginals, half bloods and Torres Strait Islanders is indicated in the following table:—

Aboriginals—			
Controlled .. ..	..	..	9,960
Non-Controlled .. ..	..	..	1,000
			10,960
Half Bloods—			
Controlled .. ..	..	..	7,143
Non-Controlled .. ..	..	..	19,300
			26,443
Torres Strait Islanders .. ..	..	..	6,084
			43,487

Of the above total 19,300 have full citizenship rights, 6,084 Torres Strait Islanders possess self-government in accordance with “*The Torres Strait Islanders’ Acts, 1939 to 1946,*” 1,000 non-controlled aboriginals have part citizenship rights and the balance are subject to “*The Aboriginals’ Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.*”

In the absence of a recent census the above-mentioned figures have been estimated on information furnished and based on local knowledge and records.

Similarly when assessing the Torres Strait Island population those working on the mainland are taken into consideration.

There are four Government Settlements and thirteen Church Missions and one Government Hostel in Queensland. During the year realignment of boundaries of Reserves caused the following alterations in areas:—

Mapoon Mission.—2,140,800 acres to 1,353,600 acres—reduction 787,200 acres.

Weipa Mission.—1,600,000 acres to 876,800 acres—reduction 723,200 acres.

Aurukun Mission.—1,216,000 acres to 793,600 acres—reduction 422,400 acres.

Edward River Mission.—554,880 acres to 1,152,000 acres—increase 597,120 acres.

Mitchell River Mission.—616,320 acres to 640,000 acres—increase 23,680 acres.

In the case of Mapoon and Weipa Missions the realigned boundaries are consequent on the lease granted to Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited.

The increase to the Reserve of Edward River was by reason of an agreement between the Churches for the alteration of the northern boundary of Edward River Mission and the southern boundary of Aurukun Mission.

Mitchell River increase was due to a recomputation of the area.

The Country Reserves represent small areas reserved for living purposes adjacent to Country towns. Only a small proportion of the population shown against Country Reserves live thereon. The majority live on cattle stations or in private homes where they are employed.

The areas and approximate population of these Reserves are:—

	Established.	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Torres Strait Islanders.	Total.
		Acres.				
Cape York Government Settlement ..	1948	97,820	186	39	455	680
Cherbourg Government Settlement ..	1904	26,765	149	963	..	1,112
Palm Island Government Settlement ..	1918	15,510	645	649	..	1,294
*Aitkenvale Government Hostel ..	1958	60	..	..	..	..
Woorabinda Government Settlement ..	1927	54,800	487	294	..	781
†Foleyvale Government Reserve ..	1946	26,986	..	..	..	..
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	1936	1,152,000	237	1	..	238
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	1924	588,400	338	2	..	340
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	1917	640,000	707	23	..	730
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) ..	1892	39,710	159	587	..	746
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) ..	1891	1,353,600	104	146	..	250
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian) ..	1904	793,600	500	10	..	510
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) ..	1914	245,120	361	41	..	402
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) ..	1898	876,800	173	1	..	174
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) ..	1931	260,480	325	51	..	376
Hammond Island Mission (Roman Catholic)	1929	3,660	..	..	103	103
Hope Vale Mission (Lutheran) ..	1949	257,200	197	163	..	360
Bloomfield River Mission (Lutheran) ..	1957	287	120	15	..	135
Mona Mona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	1913	4,318	189	124	..	313
Country Reserves ..	..	100,170	5,083	4,034	..	9,117
Torres Strait Islands ..	..	..	..	..	5,526	5,526
	..	6,537,086 = 10,214 sq. miles.	9,960	7,143	6,084	23,187

* Aitkenvale caters for transient aboriginals, apprentices, students, etc. The number of such appears in the population figures of the Settlements and Missions to which they are attached.

† Foleyvale is a cattle raising property. Population is included in Woorabinda Settlement figures.

It will be seen from the figures quoted that the population of Government Settlements and Church Missions maintains the level of previous years, namely 46 per cent. On these Institutions the figures are overall and include the personnel in outside employment. Those natives residing in towns and districts outside Settlements and Missions, who represent the higher percentage of the population are capable of regular employment and the maintenance of their families.

POLICY.

The policy of the Queensland Government applicable to its aboriginal peoples is clear and purposeful. It aims at the ultimate assimilation of all aboriginals and half bloods into the State's community life. Nothing in that policy, however, can be construed as an impetuous forcing of people to change their environment while they are unwilling to accept the responsibility of full citizenship.

The basic training of the aboriginal peoples for ultimate assimilation must be a sound education and training of a standard to create in them a spirit of pride in their race and colour and a feeling of self-reliance and confidence in their ability to make good.

It is only reasonable to expect a divergence of opinion on this highly important question. The Government's policy for the care, protection, preservation, and upliftment of its aboriginal peoples is based on the experience and knowledge of officials of Church and State who have made a life time study of aboriginal problems and aboriginal welfare.

It is impossible to accept as a solution of the problem the mere granting of full citizenship rights to all of these people. Already 19,300 of the coloured population of Queensland have these rights. The majority of the balance are incapable of accepting the responsibilities of

citizenship and do not desire them. Government policy contends that the right to exercise the franchise and the right to drink as is advocated in some quarters do not represent even an approach to the assimilation problem. More so, they represent a grave disservice to the majority of the people still protected by the provisions of the Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Acts.

Queensland has a dual problem with its coloured peoples, viz., the Torres Strait Islanders and the Aboriginals. Each are catered for under separate legislation. "*The Torres Strait Islanders' Act of 1939*" covers approximately 6,000 Torres Strait Islanders and "*The Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Acts of 1939*" caters for the aboriginals, totalling 17,103.

At a Torres Strait Island Councillors' Conference of 39 Councillors held in the Thursday Island Town Hall on the 21st May, 1958, the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. H. W. Noble, M.B., B.S., M.L.A., in opening the Conference stated:—

"I deem this indeed a very great honour to come amongst you and have this privilege of declaring your Conference open. At the outset I would like to tell each one of you that the Government is very concerned with your welfare and deeply convinced that the continued prosperity must at all times be seen to. I am also very impressed as a person who believes in democracy and after all democracy is the only way of life for free peoples. I am deeply impressed that you can have such a conference among the people of the Torres Strait Islands, that you have come here, the representatives of your people, to discuss things concerning the welfare of your own people.

“That the Island Councillors, who are democratically elected on their own island do in fact rule those islands, is, I consider, one of the finest examples of home rule there is at the present time. It has only been since 1939, a space of about 18 years, that these conferences have been held, and 18 years is a very short time in the history of mankind. But by the fact that you do look after the affairs of your own islands and in fact on your own island you have complete self rule, I feel that this is training you for the future when you will take your place in the years to come, alongside other Australians, with equal rights of Citizenship, and these formative years, that you are controlling your own affairs, will fit you very eminently for the time that you will have equal rights as other citizens of the Australian Commonwealth.”

The Chairman of the Conference was a Torres Strait Islander and the Minute Secretaries were Islanders. The proceedings were conducted solely by the Islanders. The underquoted resolution is indicative of the Islanders' attitude to the question of full citizenship:—

“*Vote and Islander Members of Parliament.*

After a long discussion by all Councillors, Conference resolved that the Islanders are generally speaking not fully aware of the responsibilities of voting and as they have their own system of self-government do not wish to proceed with this subject.”

The Queensland Government has appointed an All-Party Committee consisting of representatives of the Government and Opposition Parties in Parliament for the purpose of conducting an investigation into the social, economic, and cultural conditions of Torres Strait Islanders, with particular reference to the undermentioned matters, namely:—

- (a) Housing conditions;
- (b) Education;
- (c) Assimilation;
- (d) Opportunities for employment;
- (e) Social welfare (including problems relating to consumption of alcoholic liquor and methylated spirits).

The Committee consists of the following members, namely:—

Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs Dr H. W. Noble, M.B., B.S., M.L.A.—Chairman and Convenor;
Mr. M. J. R. Anderson, M.L.A.—Deputy Chairman;
Mr. T. V. Gilmore, M.L.A.;
Mr. H. A. Adair, M.L.A.;
Mr. G. W. G. Wallace, M.L.A.

The Committee at date of compilation of this report has commenced its investigations.

In discussing the assimilation of Queensland aborigines Dr. L. P. Winterbotham in a recent article expressed views practically identical with Queensland Government policy. He stated:—

“The future of the Australian aborigines is one of the most urgent social problems facing us today. It is not only a question of measuring their intelligence, nor their

capability, but we must endeavour to educate and thereby persuade them to accept our standards—whether of hygiene or housing, or work, or anything else. But in doing this, however much we may wish to see our fellow Australians receive just and fair treatment, we must be extremely careful that we do not undertake any move from an emotional impulse.

We must give the aboriginal as an individual, as a person, the training which will enable him to become assimilated and to do this the various Governments are trying to create the conditions and opportunities by which that assimilation may occur.

There are about 74,000 persons of the aboriginal race in Australia. All may require some measure of protection but not all require the same measure, nor an identical form of care and assistance. To press for the wholesale application of a few standard reforms is just not applicable.

In Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, the right to vote depends fundamentally upon the stage of advancement which the aboriginal has reached. It is in these three areas that the majority of the full bloods and most of the primitive aborigines live. Obviously the question of the exercise of the franchise by them is utterly different from that of its exercise by properly assimilated natives who have qualified for this status. One can hardly imagine that the naked aboriginal hunter would know how to exercise his vote wisely—nor that if he failed to vote after finding out how to enrol, that he would consequently be prosecuted. We must have at least literate people before we can absorb them politically. It is of no use giving the vote to people who really do not know what a vote means. That they can be fitted for such a responsibility is demonstrated fully by those aborigines who have been properly educated.

In Queensland the Government aims to provide a sound primary education for all the children and to encourage those deemed capable of profiting from it to receive a secondary education. Witness is borne to Governmental interest in the Aboriginal question by the rapid increase in expenditure in this direction. In 1956-57 this figure was six hundred and seventy-two thousand pounds. Surely this shows that we are trying to create the conditions and opportunities by which that assimilation may occur.

But note, assimilation has two sides, and the Government's efforts demand that you and I and the Australian community at large must do our bit, and set out deliberately to give our aborigines, especially starting with the younger ones, the opportunity of becoming equal members of that community. This means that we—the larger Society—must be prepared to temporarily adjust our requirements at various points; to protect and assist the Aboriginal reaching towards social and economic equality with the more advanced whites.”



Assimilated Government Settlement girls in employment in Brisbane.

The Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Honourable H. W. Noble, M.B., B.S., M.L.A., when discussing with Palm Island Scouts, attending the Greenbank Scout Corrobooree, their ideas and hopes for the future, said:—

“A sound educational foundation and suitable housing are musts if the States aboriginal children are ultimately to be assimilated into the white community as useful citizens of the State.”

As an indication of his Government's determination to proceed on these lines Dr. Noble outlined action already taken to provide a Home in the Townsville suburb of Aitkenvale for transient aboriginals en route to and from Palm Island Settlement. He further stated:—

“This Home will also provide permanent accommodation for adults working in the Townsville area, for boys and girls from Palm Island Settlement and other centres who may be brought to Townsville and apprenticed to trades or employed in other similar vocations, on equal terms with their white brothers and sisters, and for adults and children receiving treatment at the Townsville General Hospital as out-patients. It will be the social centre and meeting place for aboriginal people living in or visiting Townsville.

The land comprising 60 acres is suitable for dairy farming and the production of small crops and will be worked as a mixed farm to provide tuition for selected boys thus reducing the cost of maintenance of the children.

The grounds used for residential purposes will be set out by a landscape gardener and generally the whole atmosphere of the Hostel will be conducive to the purpose for which it is established, the uplift of the aboriginal children.

The fact that aboriginal children from the Government Settlements and Church Mission Schools are now entering for the Scholarship Examination, the Junior University and Senior University Examinations is indicative of the trend towards better education.

There will be no dearth of students for the Hostel when it is opened this year.

It is a credit to the tutorial classes already operating in the Native Affairs Department that this building is being erected by Torres Strait Island tradesmen, trained in the artisan classes operating in Thursday Island and Torres Strait.

These men, competent tradesmen enjoying full Award conditions and members of relevant Trade Unions, work under the supervision of a white Foreman Carpenter.”

Following a visit to Queensland in April, 1958, the Honourable J. Brady, Minister for Native Welfare, Western Australia, stated:—

“May I compliment the Queensland people on the advanced rate of assimilation which they appear to have attained.

The Western Australian Government is exploring the possibilities of setting up Aboriginal Community Centres modelled on Queensland Native Settlements.

He had been greatly impressed with the Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement in South Queensland. He said it would be more difficult to set up similar centres in Western Australia where the natives were more scattered but the Queensland idea of encouraging aborigines to live as a community appeared to work so well that he would try to adapt it for Western Australia.”

The Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Acts provide that Exemption Certificates may be issued to people whose education and general standard of living fit them to take their place in the community. In effect these people have so benefited by the protective provisions of the Acts that they are now able to control their own affairs. The number of such Exemption Certificates issued last year totals 208 representing 298 people.

In its programme for the advancement of the aboriginal people the Queensland Government provides finance which can fairly be regarded as generous. The total contribution for this year by the State is £959,623. Included in this figure are grants and other assistance to Church Missions £162,965. The balance is absorbed in the maintenance, education and training of the people on Government Settlements at Cherbourg, Woorabinda and Palm Island and the administration of the Torres Strait area.

Included also is general relief to aged aboriginals not on Government Settlements or Church Missions and who are not eligible for Commonwealth Age or Invalid pensions.

On the Government Settlements and Church Missions the training of the people comprises:—

- (1) Primary State School education for 2,878 children to approximately Scholarship standard. An additional 15 children from Settlements and Missions are attending secondary schools at Government cost.
- (2) Training in domestic science for girls and manual and rural training for boys.
- (3) Training of native nurses.
- (4) Training of natives as artisans to be employed in the various callings such as carpenters, plumbers, saddlers, tractor drivers, farm hands, clerks, storekeepers, etc. Practically all native stockmen employed on Government Settlements have learned their work on the Settlement.
- (5) Cattle raising activities on Government Settlements are a remunerative undertaking. Cherbourg and Woorabinda carry approximately 6,000 head.

Thus against this expenditure aboriginals on Government Settlements contribute from the various trading activities established there



Secondary School Children, Government Settlement.

including the sales of cattle, pigs, grain crops, etc., and receipts from the Retail Stores established thereon, a total of £170,745.

It is not to be assumed that every aboriginal in Queensland is a charge against the taxpayer. Approximately 46 per cent. of the aboriginals reside on Government Settlements and Church Missions, and are assisted by State and Church funds. The balance reside in various locations throughout the State and maintain themselves. The 20,000 exempted aboriginals referred to previously likewise maintain themselves. The 6,000 Torres Strait Islanders are similarly independent of Government assistance other than that provided to any white community.

The following figures show how erroneous is any idea that the whole of the coloured people still under the protection of the Acts are indigent or homeless:—

	£
Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding Peninsula aboriginals	578,386
Gross earnings by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	429,000
Savings Bank deposits by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals	433,787
Savings Bank deposits by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	441,691
Savings Bank withdrawals by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals	401,978
Savings Bank withdrawals by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	442,667
Value of marine produce won by Torres Strait Islanders off their own boats	134,599
Income from various industrial sources on Government Settlements including cattle, retail stores, etc.	170,745

EDUCATION.

The Department's education curriculum is of necessity not confined to the principles of primary education. It covers manual training and domestic science and the furtherance of the education of any individual with special attributes in any calling.

Joe Rootsey, an aboriginal stockman from Laura, North Queensland, is quite possibly a natural artist of outstanding ability. During a convalescent period in hospital he occupied his spare time in painting. His natural but undeveloped talents came under notice and he was brought to Brisbane for tuition. At the Central Technical College under art instructors, Messrs. C. G. Gibbs and M. R. G. Haysom, Joe Rootsey's ability was developed without interference with his natural talents.

During the short period he was in Brisbane he completed fourteen paintings which have received very favourable comment. Four of them appeared in the Courier-Mail Art Panel in July and all fourteen paintings are being exhibited in the Departmental Exhibit at the Royal National Show. It is anticipated that he will return to Brisbane after the winter for further training at the Central Technical College.

The closest co-operation between the Department of Native Affairs and the Central Technical College will continue in this man's interests.

Veda Dinger of Woorabinda Settlement, the first Departmental ward to undertake the Y.W.C.A. Leadership Course, is an outstanding case as indicated by report from Y.W.C.A. Headquarters:—

“After a few weeks in Townsville at the end of 1956 to watch and ‘get a feel’ of the Y.W.C.A., Veda commenced her definite ‘training on the job’ at Toowoomba at the beginning of 1957. She is responding intelligently and with great care to her training and is eager to make good. She has definite work to do with clubs and groups under the guidance by Miss Harry (General Secretary), and her responsibilities are being gradually increased.

Throughout the time, she has worked on a correspondence course with the tutors in Melbourne on subjects introducing her to the elements of Christian group work. This necessitates systematic reading and subsequent self-expression in answer to questions. Reports from her tutors have been very satisfactory and we do feel that she has made considerable headway. Toward the end of her year of training, she twice was left in charge, under the care of a voluntary leader of experience, for a week or more while the Secretary was away on Conference and other duties, and she did the job to the satisfaction of all.

This year she has begun her second year of training with the added responsibility she is able to carry; and correspondence courses on further aspects of the work are being undertaken. She is also learning typewriting and being trained in the Art of Speech.

She has fitted normally into the life of the Y.W.C.A. Hostel where she resides, being accepted by the business girls as one of themselves. We feel that she has developed beyond all expectation as a person. She is neat and dainty and clear in her thinking, and we have the highest hopes that as her training progresses she will be capable of undertaking a position of leadership in the Y.W.C.A.”

Veda Dinger is not now controlled by the Department of Native Affairs. She has full citizenship rights.

Michael Miller of Palm Island Settlement is attending the Teachers' Training College having been granted a Scholarship by the Education Department. His aim is to be a teacher in an Education Department School.

Phillip Stewart, who was a trainee teacher on Palm Island Settlement, also has been given the opportunity of enrolling at the Teachers' Training College for a two-year course and is making good progress. He will ultimately join the teaching service.

Tennyson Kynuna from Yarrabah Mission is an apprentice shipwright with a leading Queensland firm. He attends the Central Technical College regularly for tuition in the various subjects allied to his job.



Family in new home, Palm Island Settlement.

Arrangements are in hand for two girls from Cherbourg Settlement to undertake tuition in dressmaking at the Murgon High School from the commencement of next term.

Four natives (two from Aurukun Mission, one from Thursday Island and one from Palm Island Settlement) were enrolled at the Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton, for a course of training in butchery. All proved capable and willing to learn and will derive considerable benefit from the instruction received.

Primary schools established for the education of aboriginal children work on the same syllabus as that used by the Education Department and which provides, in addition to primary educa-

tion, for tuition in manual training and domestic science.

Two boys and one girl passed the 1957 State Scholarship Examination and are now attending Secondary Schools. The total number of children at present enrolled in Secondary Schools is 15.

The training of boys in ship building, carpentry, joinery, plumbing, and other manual training callings continues in Thursday Island and on Government Settlements. Domestic Science for girls is likewise in the Department's School curriculum.

Particulars of children attending the established primary schools are shown hereunder:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st March, 1958.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	167	170	337
Settlement	Palm Island	133	117	250
Settlement	Woorabinda	102	113	215
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	67	60	127
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	53	47	100
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	36	40	76
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	30	24	54
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	40	59	99
Aboriginal Mission	Mona Mona	47	39	86
Aboriginal Mission	Hope Vale	39	37	76
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	62	45	107
Aboriginal Mission	Edward River	21	19	40
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	18	16	34
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	86	85	171
Island Mission	St. Paul's (Moa Island)	38	34	72
Island Mission	St. Michael's Convent (Palm Island)	51	42	93
Island Mission	Hammond Island	21	14	35
Reserve	Cowal Creek	17	26	43
Reserve	Bamaga	39	36	75
Reserve	Red Island Point	6	14	20
Torres Strait	Island Schools	387	381	768
	Total	1,460	1,418	2,878

HOUSING.

The Department has never lost sight of the fact that sub-standard housing on Government Settlements, Church Missions, or in Country Reserves is a barrier to the education of the people for ultimate assimilation.

With this in mind vigorous house building programmes operate on the three Government Settlements, on the Church Missions and in some of the country areas. On the Settlements of Palm Island, Cherbourg and Woorabinda the housing lag is being speedily rectified and within a few years it is expected that the problem will be practically solved.

Torres Strait demands are likewise being met but there the number of houses required is by comparison greater than on the Government Settlements and the difficulties of transport of materials by sea are a further handicap.

However, the Department's sawmill on Cape York Peninsula is producing timber of a quantity and quality sufficient to enable the various building gangs scattered throughout Torres Strait and on the Peninsula to annually reduce the demand.

The programme for the Country Reserves for this year provides for the erection of cottages sufficient for the requirements of the people of these areas at Coen, Mareeba, Mossman, Georgetown, Birdsville, Camooweal, and Normanton.

Building has not been confined solely to dwellings but includes recreation halls, schools, workshops, etc.

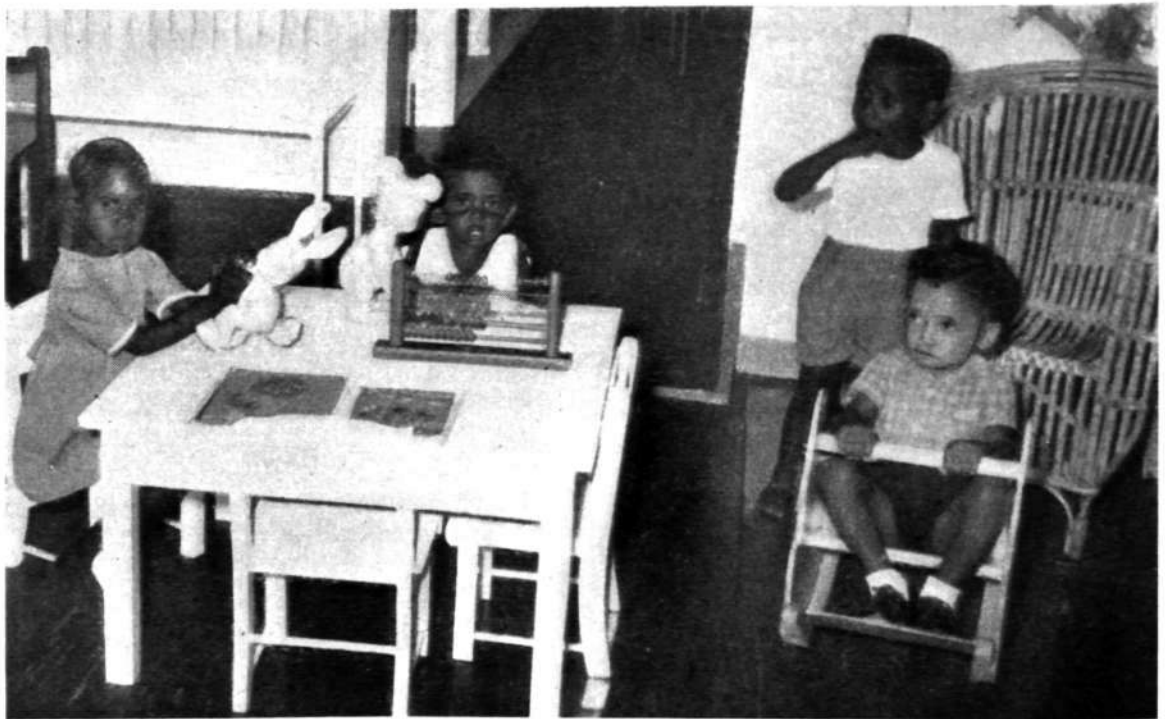
HEALTH.

Continuous vigilance by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, his staff, Government Medical Officers throughout the State and Superintendents and staff of the various Hospitals, guarantees an effective check on the health of Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals.

It is very evident that Tuberculosis, which a few years ago was fairly regarded as a challenge to the future of the aboriginal race, has been brought under control to such extent that the Waiben Tuberculosis Hospital at Thursday Island with bed capacity of 80 is now able to take aboriginal patients from Palm Island Settlement. The transfer of natives to this specially



Child Welfare Centre, Bamaqa, Cape York Peninsula.



Waiting Room, Baby Welfare Clinic, Palm Island.

established Torres Strait Island Aboriginal Hospital relieves the General Hospitals of this particular type of patient and enables concentrated treatment under the Tuberculosis Specialist at Waiben Hospital.

No serious epidemics have occurred. Minor outbreaks have been adequately and expeditiously dealt with by the medical authorities.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

On all the Government Settlements and Church Missions special attention is paid to the health of the mother and child. Child Welfare centres conducted on the lines of the Maternal and Child Welfare organisation in Brisbane have resulted in the education of the parents and a guarantee of strong healthy children. Where

previously the death rate on some of these Settlements and Missions was comparatively high amongst the infants such does not now prevail.

In the overall the health of the community has been good. It is quite evident that the better housing of the people contributes considerably to this happy situation.

The following Schedules provide:—

- (1) Statistics of births and deaths at the Thursday Island General Hospital of Torres Strait Islanders.
- (2) Statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area which cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island Hospital.

PERIOD 1ST JUNE, 1957 TO 31ST MAY, 1958.

	Births.			Still Births.	Deaths (from all Causes).		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Thursday Island Hospital	82	79	161	6	14	11	25
Waiben Hospital, Thursday Island
Badu Island	1	1	2
Boigu Island	1	1
Coconut Island
Cowal Creek	2	1	3
Bamaga
Red Island Point	1	..	1
Darnley Island
Dauan Island
Dowar Island	1	..	1
Kubin Village
Naghir Island	1	2	3
Mabuiag Island	1	..	1
Murray Island
Rennell Island	1	2	3
Stephen Island
Saibai Island	1	1	2
Yam Island
Yorke Island	3	1	4
Horne Island
At Sea
	82	79	161	6	26	20	46

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1958.

BAMAGA HOSPITAL.

	Inpatients.	Outpatients Treatments.	
June	12	909	Number of inpatients—298
July	13	869	
August	18	1,430	
September	24	908	
October	37	1,176	
November	29	998	Number of outpatients—12,599
December	8	1,026	
January	6	964	
February	35	1,024	
March	50	1,325	
April	49	1,024	
May	17	874	

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1958—*continued.*
BADU ISLAND.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	2.3	5.5	7.8	295	885	In-patients. Daily Average 8.2
July	4	4.6	8.6	289	836	
August	3.6	3.7	7.3	300	962	
September	7.3	5.3	12.6	393	1,066	Out-patients. Number treated 3,418
October	4.2	7.6	11.8	257	701	
November	3.9	6.2	10.1	198	471	
December	1.8	2	3.8	263	697	Out-patients Number of treatments 9,952
January .. .. .	.4	1.5	1.9	263	922
February	1	2.6	3.6	270	891	
March	5	9.9	14.9	310	981	
April	3	6.4	9.4	284	652	
May	2.7	3.8	6.5	296	888	

DARNLEY ISLAND.

	In-Patients		Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	99	683	Out-patients. Number treated 1,307
July	1	106	477	
August	106	416	
September	116	522	Out-patients Number of treatments 5,948
October	126	567	
November	105	509	
December	86	383	
January	127	549	
February	120	629	
March	113	451	
April	97	346	
May	106	416	

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDERS.

Pearl shelling and gathering of trochus shell together with those industries incidental to the marine industry, viz., boat building, etc., constitute the main avenue of employment for Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals in the Thursday Island area.

The wages and working conditions for these employees are governed by agreement entered into between the Director of Native Affairs and the Pearl Shellers' Association annually.

Torres Strait Islanders have their own pearling fleet. This fleet numbering 23 vessels is the largest numerically in Australia and provides employment for 255 Torres Strait Islanders as divers, engine men, tenders, crews, and naked swimmers.

On the pearling fleets owned by Companies, firms or individuals, operating between Thursday Island and Mackay, 591 Islanders and aboriginals are employed. In addition there are more than 200 people employed as dinghy workers on their home Islands and in Thursday Island as shell sorters, shipwrights, etc. Thus the number of workers directly or indirectly associated with the industry would be in the vicinity of 1,100.

It is unfortunate that the pearling industry which for many years has provided remunerative employment for Torres Strait Islanders and

aboriginals is experiencing a recession that is threatening the very existence of the industry and the future of Thursday Island as a town.

Particularly in America where in recent years the markets for pearl shell and trochus shell have been reasonably attractive is the industry suffering its heaviest blow. Slowly but surely plastics have supplanted pearl and trochus buttons and other articles on the American market to such extent that over the last twelve months trochus shell has been practically unsaleable and consequently production has been negligible.

It is pleasing to record that a slight upward trend in the trochus market has occurred during the months of May and June to such extent that there seems to be some hope of a partial revival in this section of the industry.

Pearl shell, always more stable on the world's markets than trochus shell, is also strongly challenged by plastics. The result has been a steep down grading of pearl shell resulting in a proportion, previously marketable, being now discarded as unsaleable and a consequent drop in revenue to the producer. Added to this is the desire of dealers and manufacturers for a reduction in production. These factors have severely militated against the success in the industry during the year under review and the prospects are by no means bright, particularly for the Master Pearlers who employ on their fleets Ryukyuan and Torres Strait Islanders.

The position is not nearly so desperate with the Torres Strait Islanders' fleet. The production of that fleet is sold to an Overseas buyer under Agreement entered into approximately twelve months ago with a currency of three years expiring on 31st January, 1960. This Agreement provides for a fixed minimum price for pearl shell and trochus shell with upward trends consistent with market fluctuations. It compels the purchaser to take the full production of the Islanders' fleet on certain gradings which cannot be deviated from irrespective of market fluctuations or reduction in consumer demands. This Agreement has saved the Torres Strait Islanders from the unfortunate financial difficulties in which Master Pearlers now find themselves.

At present none of this labour is unemployed and to enable a continuation of such position even if the industry should further deteriorate investigations are proceeding into the possible employment of the men in other spheres suited to their psychology and training.

It can be fairly estimated that in the pastoral industry, 4,500 aboriginals of various degrees of caste are employed. A further 1,300 aboriginals and Islanders are engaged on their home Settlements, Church Missions and Torres Strait Islands. There are also in the vicinity of 900

engaged in private enterprise as carpenters, plumbers, general artisans, labourers, nurses, and domestics, etc. The services which these people give to the community are generally recognised as essential to the success of the various callings in which they are employed. This applies particularly to the pastoral industry where aboriginal stockmen and their women folk are recognised as essential to the successful running of many pastoral properties.

Every Islander and aboriginal employed in a calling covered by a State Arbitration Court Award is paid in accordance with that Award. This does not apply to the Award covering the pastoral industry from which provisions, aboriginals are specifically exempted. Departmental Regulations, however, provide a wage and living conditions in this industry consistent with the aboriginals' ability. Where it is evident that aboriginals in this industry can compare favourably with white employees they are paid at the same rate as the latter.

In all cases aboriginal workers are covered by the State Workers' Compensation Acts. In effect the organisation aimed at the preservation and protection of the aboriginal race in Queensland gives to him work and wages of a standard practically similar to white workers.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Cattle Raising.—The numbers of livestock depastured on the various Government Settlements as at 31st March, 1958, are:—

	Beef Cattle.								Dairy Cattle.				Horses.			
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Heifers.	Steers.	Bullocks.	Weaners.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Cherbourg Settlement	20	345	7	244	..	65	184	865	..	..	..	..	..	16	53	69
Aboriginal Training Farm .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	58	15	8	84	2	1	3
Woorabinda Settlement	63	1,881	470	350	326	317	..	3,407	..	59	..	..	59	44	130	174
Foleyvale Reserve .. ..	..	5	1	..	..	1,519	..	1,525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Island Settlement .. ..	..	..	..	..	70	97	..	167	1	177	92	61	331	28	7	35
Total	83	2,231	478	594	396	1,808	184	5,964	4	294	107	69	474	70	191	281

The value of these livestock as a Departmental asset is £140,273. One hundred and ninety-two bullocks were sold for a nett return of £6,197. In addition 419 head of cattle were slaughtered for rations, valued at £10,475. Bullocks sold were fattened on Foleyvale and represent male cattle transferred as weaners from Woorabinda and Cherbourg Settlements.

Timber Production.—Recovery of sawn timber from Government Settlements' sawmills amounted to 309,975 super feet. All timber produced was used in the erection of buildings mainly native accommodation in the Thursday Island, Torres Strait Area and Settlements. The output of the mills was less than last year. The Cherbourg Sawmill was closed for several months during the process of conversion to electrification. The Bamaga Sawmill was similarly inoperative due to the inability to obtain the services of a sawyer.

Agriculture and Farming Generally.—Vegetables, fruit, and milk were produced on the various Settlements and utilised for local consumption to the value of £17,250. Dairying, pig raising and other agricultural crops were produced on a commercial basis, total receipts being £8,026. As applied to primary producers generally production has been seriously handicapped by drought conditions which have prevailed.

Trade Training.—There has been an increase in production by the Trade Training Section in comparison to previous years, the value of joinery and furniture produced being £4,542. The installation of a tenoning machine during the financial year will further assist to increase production in this section. All joinery and furniture produce was used solely on Settlements, Thursday Island Area, and the Church Missions.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The various Church Missions which cater for aboriginals throughout the State have again recorded a fair measure of progress in the policy of uplift and betterment of the living conditions of the people.

Most of these Missions are situated in the more inaccessible portions of Queensland, viz., the Cape York Peninsula Area. There climatic conditions are hard and the lack of adequate transport militates against the progress which is hoped for. To these Missionary workers, men and women, employed in Mission fields in these areas the Government is deeply appreciative. They have virtually given their lives to a cause to which they are espoused and many unrecorded hardships are suffered in the performance of their duties.

Opportunity, therefore, is now taken to thank these Mission workers for the unselfish efforts which were theirs during the current year.

All possible assistance in cash and kind is made available to these Church Missions by the Government to enable their planned work to proceed. It is common knowledge that contributions to the Mission fields are not as great now as previously and, therefore, the responsibility devolves upon the Government to make good the shortages and to provide extras to meet added cost of maintenance and development of the Missions.

ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table of deposits, withdrawals and balances, the total amount held in trust in the Savings Bank Accounts of aboriginals is £941,127 2s. 6d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw, within reason, against their Savings Bank Accounts.—

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1958

	Total.				Savings Bank Balances as at 30th June, 1958.			Investments.			Total Funds.		
	Deposits.		Withdrawals.										
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Cherbourg	43,691	4 11	47,332	4 7	6,099	9 11	1,000	0 0	7,099	9 11			
Palm Island	60,392	13 6	65,064	1 6	11,496	5 6	21,000	0 0	32,496	5 6			
Woorabinda	36,040	2 4	36,275	6 2	7,852	10 9	4,000	0 0	11,852	10 9			
Various Protectorates ..	293,663	8 3	262,307	7 3	87,458	14 2	575,759	12 4	663,218	6 6			
Torres Strait Islands ..	441,691	16 7	442,667	0 6	82,320	17 6	144,139	12 4	226,460	9 10			
Totals ..	£ 875,479	5 7	853,646	0 0	195,227	17 10	745,899	4 8	941,127	2 6			

Of the total funds of £941,127 held to the credit in the Savings Bank Accounts of Queensland Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, £61,159 is on account of community welfare funds and the balance of £879,968 is to the credit of individual Savings Bank Accounts.

For the year ended 30th June, 1958, the deposits to Savings Bank Accounts totalled £875,479 5s. 7d. and withdrawals £853,646. As the deposits were in excess of withdrawals by £21,833 5s. 7d. any contention of undue restrictions on withdrawals cannot be substantiated.

It is noteworthy that the average Savings Bank balance per head of white population in Queensland is £106 9s. The average Savings Bank balance per head of aboriginal population in Queensland is £37 19s.

In the case of a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported, action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin. The number of estates so administered was 34 and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £5,486 1s. 4d.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his Savings Bank Account for his immediate needs. This is plainly evident from a perusal

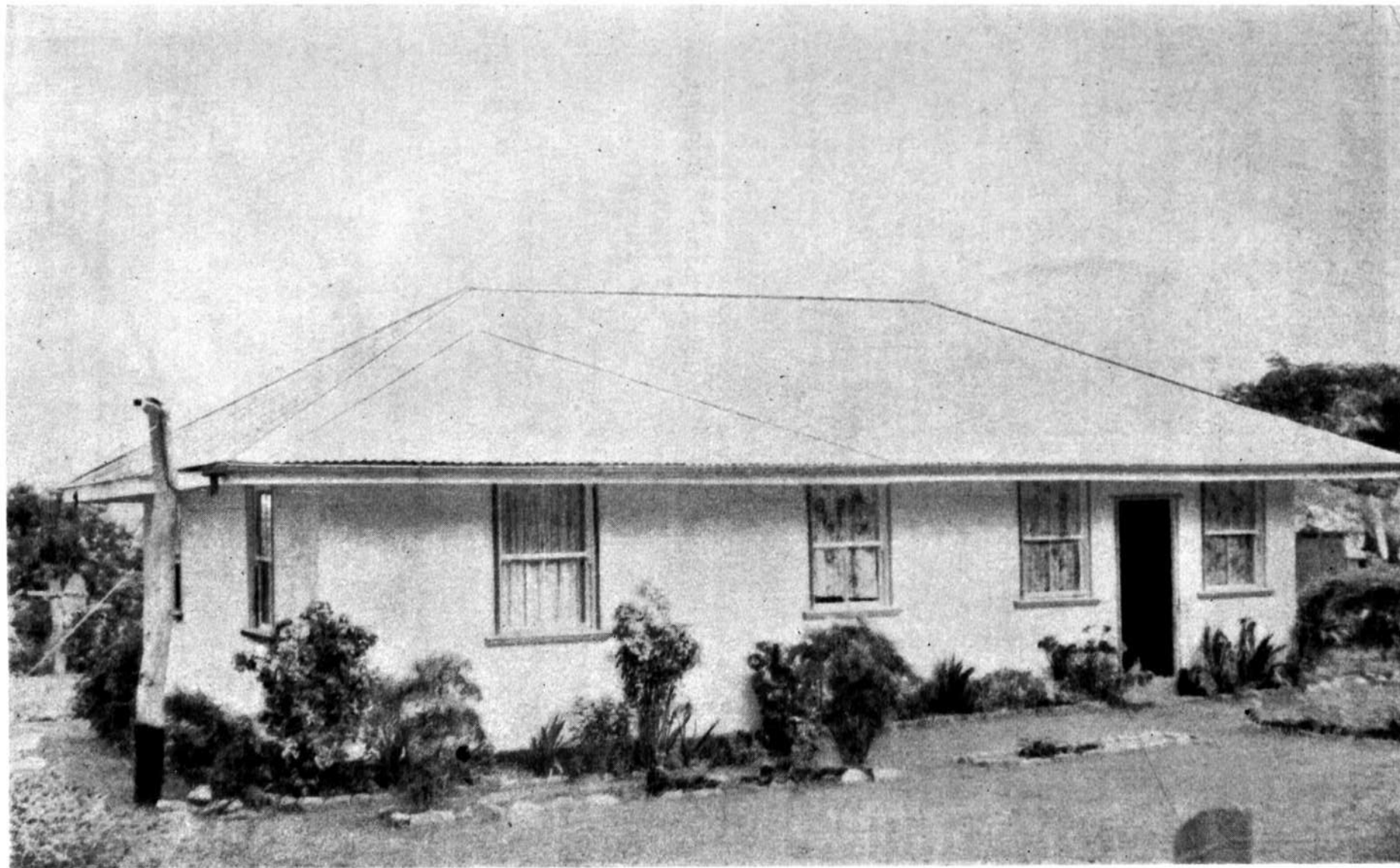
of the total deposits and withdrawals shown in the foregoing table. Innumerable cases can be quoted of—

- Aboriginals receiving their exemptions from the provisions of the Act and receiving their savings in a lump sum to set them up in business suited to their calling;
- Homes being built for aboriginals from their savings;
- Plant and equipment being provided from savings to allow the aboriginal to improve his industrial status;
- Funds made available for aboriginals to enjoy a holiday at the seaside.

CHILD ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS.

The Commonwealth Government Child Endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of the endowment has proved of much benefit to aboriginal children in that it allows the mothers to purchase a wider variety of food, better clothing, etc., for the children.

A close check is made on every individual account to which Child Endowment is credited to ensure that the expenditure by parents is in keeping with the purpose for which the payment is made.



Palm Island Settlement—New type house.

The number of aboriginal parent endowees in the State is:—

Country Protectorates	Endowees.
Cherbourg Settlement	397
Woorabinda Settlement	165
Palm Island Settlement	98
Torres Strait Islanders	124
	948
	<hr/>
	1,732

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £93,222 12s. 11d.

When aboriginal children are wholly maintained in Mission and Government Settlement Institutions, the endowment is paid to Institutional funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing extras in diet, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books, and reading material.

The following table reveals the number of children in Institutions for whom Child Endowment is collected:—

Woorabinda Settlement	42
Cherbourg Settlement	89
Palm Island Settlement	301
Hope Vale Mission	1
Daintree Mission	14
Doomadgee Mission	116
Mitchell River Mission	85
Aurukun Mission	206
Mapoon Mission	125
Mornington Island Mission	178
Weipa Mission	57
Yarrabah Mission	376
Presbyterian Home, Thursday Island ..	8
	<hr/>
	1,598

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION.

Boy Scout Troops are functioning on the three Government Settlements of Cherbourg, Palm Island and Woorabinda. Woorabinda, with 38 Scouts is the latest troop to be formed. Scouts from Palm Island and Cherbourg Settlements attended the Greenbank Corroboree early in the year. Cherbourg Scouts also attended a scout camp at Nanango.

The Palm Island boys were hosts to a Brisbane Troop who visited Palm Island Settlement during the school vacation. This Brisbane Troop is reciprocating by inviting the Palm Islanders to Brisbane for the Royal National Show.

Apart from the training which these boys receive as Scouts the opportunity to fraternise with other boys is an excellent education. It provides also tuition in the overall Government policy of assimilation.

APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance forthcoming from all officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs is gratefully recognised.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the Manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various Police Officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these Country Police Protectors.

The Superintendents and staffs of the Church Missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Reports of the Settlements and the Missions and in respect of Torres Strait Islanders are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1 ..	Palm Island Settlement
Appendix 2 ..	Cherbourg Settlement
Appendix 3 ..	Woorabinda Settlement
Appendix 4 ..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 5 ..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 6 ..	Hope Vale Mission
Appendix 7 ..	Bloomfield River Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Mona Mona Mission
Appendix 9 ..	Torres Strait Islands and Peninsula
Appendix 10 ..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 11 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 12 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 13 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Hammond Island Mission
Appendix 16 ..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 17 ..	Weipa Mission
Appendix 18 ..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 19 ..	St. Paul's Mission

APPENDIX 1.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT, VIA TOWNSVILLE.

STATISTICS.

(Superintendent—Mr. R. H. Bartlam.)

Population on Settlement—	
Full Bloods	590
Half Castes	593
Attached to the Settlement who are employed on the Mainland	111
	<hr/>
Total ..	1,294

Deaths—
Adults 10—Average age at death 69.2 years.
Children under 1 year—4.

Births—68.
Exemptions—52.

HEALTH.

Immunisation has been carried out during the year against Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, and Whooping Cough. The Tuberculosis survey has continued and regular X-rays are undertaken. No serious outbreak of disease has occurred. Some influenza was present in the early part of this year.

Efforts continue to educate the population in matters of health and hygiene and health films are shown accompanied by Health Education Council pamphlets and advice from Hygiene and Welfare officers.

General health is good.



Pineapples, Palm Island Settlement.

PALM ISLAND HOSPITAL MEDICAL REPORT.

A weekly average of 397 outpatients showed a decrease of 133 patients from the former year. As stated in previous reports, the care taken with the nutrition and welfare of the population is reflected in the above figure.

Sixty-eight births were recorded from 1st April, 1957, to 30th March, 1958, of which two babies were stillborn, the remainder living. The birth rate has increased over the last year by 33½ per cent.

The total number of admissions over the last twelve months have been 791, only 20 more than in the previous year.

All active Tuberculosis cases are now transferred to Thursday Island Sanatorium.

Routine immunizations for Tetanus and Poliomyelitis have continued throughout the year for the children.

DENTAL.

With the appointment of a dentist in March, 1958, the dental condition of the people on the Settlement is improving.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Constant field work on the part of this section has maintained control on fly and other vermin. A septic system was installed at the new Dormitory nursery. Essential services were maintained. Dry garbage collected is used to build up low-lying areas and these are covered with soil and brought under grass. A Hookworm survey was undertaken of all people on the Settlement. There are 16 positives still being treated. A resurvey was organised to commence on 1st June, 1958.

BABY WELFARE.

This unit has operated efficiently throughout the year. The constant work being done with mothers and children is having its effect and the regular weekly weighing and checking is recording their steady improvement. Weekly issues of eggs, milk, cheese, fruit, vegetables, cereals, peanut paste, etc., continue and clothing and winter extras to all children are a feature of the work of this section.

Extension work is carried to ensure the best and most effective use of supplementary rations supplied and to carry a step further the advice given at the Clinic.

EMPLOYMENT.

Difficulty is found in keeping up with the demand for stockmen and domestics. General labourers and others are more difficult to place.

NATIVE HOUSING.

The intensive drive in native house construction has continued during the year and 33 new concrete and timber homes have been built for aboriginal use in the period. These are supplied with shower room and laundry. The completion of this project, commenced five years ago, is now in sight. The general uplift in the standard of living and desire for improvement is in direct proportion to the improved housing.

FEMALE WELFARE.

The work in this section is proving of great value in improving living conditions on the Settlement. By constant field work and by education in home management and general hygiene, the Female Welfare Officer has been able to show definite results. Families are regularly visited and assistance given in general home management.

Training in sewing, cooking and home management is given to the girls in the two upper grades at school and a more intensive training to older girls who have left school. These latter girls also receive three months' training in Baby Welfare work.

Issues of supplementary rations are made to ex-Hansen's patients, diabetics and convalescent tuberculosis cases by this section, which is also responsible for the issue of clothing to all females on the Settlement.

This unit also supervises the Old People's Home with 25 aged people and the Convalescent Hostel with 20 inmates.

FARMING.

Emphasis has been placed on the growing of fruit and vegetables and the production for the period is as follows:—

Pork	4,266 lb.
Beef	8,328 lb.
Fish	1,988 lb.
Mutton	2,060 lb.
Turtle	260 lb.
Bananas	1,581 bunches
Milk	6,463 gallons
Pawpaws	4,795
Pines	14,701
Cabbage	7,085
Chinese cabbage	561
Carrots	92 bushels
Onions	72 bushels
Lettuce	1,253
Beans	161 cases
Tomatoes	49 cases
Turnips	61 sacks
Beetroot	19 cases
Sweet potatoes	3 sacks
Watermelons	887
Radish	58 bags
Marrow	602
Squash	580
Cucumber	55 cases
Pumpkin	280
Peas	6 bags
Oranges	16 cases

Fencing has been overhauled and repaired where required. The Island is now divided into five large paddocks by the erection of five miles of new fencing.

More pineapples have been planted at Butler Bay and the banana plantation has been extended.

During the last dry period—easily the lowest rainfall on record at Palm Island—the silos were emptied to feed the stock. The cane planted for feeding purposes was cut and consequently losses were small. Eight acres of Saccaline, Corn and Poona Pea were grown to fill the silos and these are now ready for the next dry period.

Work on the Bamboo Creek area continues and areas planted in Green Panic, Molasses grass and Buffel grass have done well. Where regrowth has occurred this has been brushed



Timber logging, Palm Island Settlement.

CATTLE.

Cattle figures are 433, an increase of 47 over the period. There is now scope for expansion in this field. With Zebu cross bulls, for preference Santa Gertrudis, a beef herd could be built up capable of supplying at least 40 per cent. of the Island's beef requirements. This is, of course, contingent on the clearing of scrub and laying down of introduced pastures.

SAWMILLING AND LOGGING.

For the year 113,655 super feet of sawn timber was recovered. All of this was used on the Settlement.

The breaking down frame at the mill was completely rebuilt and concrete and steel foundations laid down for both the frame and the rack. The mill was out of action for three weeks for the work to be done.

Most of the logs came from the newly opened Bamboo Creek area and some from the back of the Island where they were cut and rafted around.

The thicknesser and four-sided planer were brought into the Settlement proper and installed in the workshop. Chamfer board, T. & G. and V. J. sheeting were cut in quantities by this means.

WORKSHOP AND MANUAL TRAINING.

Woodworking and plumbing classes were maintained throughout the year. The boys from the upper classes at the school attend classes twice a week in each of these trades. Lads who have left school continue their training in carpentry, plumbing and other trades. Special jobs for boat building, furniture making and general work is undertaken at this point.

EDUCATION.

The school standard has been maintained. The staff at the Aboriginal School has been increased by one Assistant Teacher and now stands at Head Teacher, five assistant teachers and six native monitresses. One boy and two girls are at secondary schools in Charters Towers and Townsville and two lads are at the Teachers' Training College at Brisbane. Seven children sat for Scholarship Examination but there were no passes. Two girls have passed their first year's nursing examinations at the Townsville General Hospital and are continuing in their profession.

SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES.

This section continued to function through the period. Arrangements were made for 26 Scouts from Brisbane and Townsville to visit Palm Island and to camp with 50 Palm Island Scouts on Esk Island for a week during the May school break. Scouts, Guides and Cubs all carry out regular meetings and scouting activities. A trip to the mainland was made.

TRANSPORT.

The "Irex" has continued in use throughout the year. A new 45-foot launch has been commenced at the Palm Island shipyard to replace

this vessel which is very old. The "Sylvia" and "Turtle" boats have been overhauled during the year. Five feet were added to the length of the "Sylvia" and she is a much better boat now.

The loading from Townsville to Palm Island is carried by charter vessel, an arrangement which is not as satisfactory as by the Settlement's own vessel. The power barge is a very useful unit for general Settlement transport and is used extensively in lightering operations.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A 40-ft. x 40-ft. nursery has been erected for the Women's Home and this is ready for use as soon as electricity is installed. The unit comprises day nursery and night nursery, kitchenette, bathroom and septic and quarters for the woman in charge. The interior of the building has been lined and ceiled throughout and painted in tasteful pastel shades.

A play area and sand pit have been provided. Foundations are being laid and the steel framework of the new recreation hall is being erected. This building will be 150 ft. x 80 ft. and will be a great asset to the Settlement when completed.

An engineering workshop 70 ft. x 40 ft. is well under way and this will house the garage, machine shop, welding unit and similar units.

The recreation hall, a 150 ft. x 80 ft. structure, is being erected for recreation purposes. This will house picture show, kiosk, library, etc.

Work on an airstrip was commenced at Butler Bay and all timber has been cleared from the site and the drainage channels and levelling have been commenced. The road to the site has been graded and resurfaced.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This Association has maintained steady interest in sport and entertainment. This section is a co-operative concern and by sales of shells and curios it is able to provide for amenities and entertainment.

FANTOME ISLAND LEPROSARIUM.

The number of patients at this centre has changed little and now stands at 26. During the year there were 6 admissions and 2 discharges.

Improvements on the Island were maintained. The banana plantation planted last year is bearing fruit.

The Sisters of the Franciscan Order of Mary have capably handled the medical care of the patients with the assistance of the Palm Island Doctor who visits weekly.

APPRECIATION.

The assistance of the Director of Native Affairs and his staff is gratefully recorded and appreciation is given to the Settlement staff for their loyal support during the period.



Peanuts, Palm Island Settlement.

PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL.

(Priest in charge—Rev. Father V. Ashwood.)

In reviewing the activities of St. Michael's School, Palm Island, the reviewer feels, with justification, that progress has been made in the intellectual development of our Australian native. It is not an easy task to mould the mind of the young native. Numbered among the difficulties is their isolation from intellectual development which is commonplace to pupils of the mainland. Mention must also be made of a mental inertia which seems to pervade the natives' young lives. However, with greater emphasis on visual education and the introduction of compulsory after school study for the higher grades, we look forward to still better improvement in the field of education of the native who has been offered such splendid opportunities by the Department of Native Affairs.

We were happy to welcome to our school by song, dance and address, the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble. He was accompanied by the Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. K. J. McCormack, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, Mr. Dewar, M.L.A., Mr T. Aikens, M.L.A., and the Superintendent of Palm Island, Mr. R. H. Bartlam. Our senior girl, Oriel Wilson, on behalf of the school, read an address to the Honourable the Minister. The address suitably illuminated with native motifs was eventually presented to the Honourable Minister whose announcement of a holiday was greeted with joyous acclamation.

Another visitor to St. Michael's during the last twelve months was His Lordship, Bishop Ryan, who never arrives empty-handed and whose generosity to the children is deeply appreciated.

At his annual inspection, Mr. Stevens expressed satisfaction at the progress of the children. As a teacher who has had experience in the teaching of native children, his suggestions and advice were welcomed by the staff.

Our roll stands at 100, made up of 96 academic pupils and 4 following the Domestic Science course. At present two pupils are being prepared for the Scholarship Examination, while others are being selected to sit for this examination which carries such opportunities and help from the Department of Native Affairs. In our needlework we were again winners of several prizes at the Palm Island Show. The school is staffed by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who are helped by three native monitresses.

Sporting activities were encouraged and the school entered the competitions with the Palm Island State School. To this school we offer our congratulations on their victories.

Finally, to the Department of Native Affairs and the Administration at Palm Island, we record our thanks for their interest in St. Michael's School—an interest that is appreciated.

APPENDIX 2.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT,
VIA MURGON.

(Superintendent—Mr. G. Sturges.)

STATISTICS.

Population on Settlement—

Full Bloods	149
Half Castes	963
Total	1,112

	Full Blood.	Half-Caste.	Total.
Births—			
Male	8	38	46
Female	6	25	31
Total	14	63	77

	Full Blood.	Half-Caste.	Total.
Deaths—			
Male	8	11	19
Female	2	4	6
Total	10	15	25

Marriages—8.

Child Endowment—	£	s.	d.
Total Child Endowment paid ..	11,623	5	8
Average monthly payment	894	1	1
Total Store sales to endowees ..	8,143	18	1
Average number of endowees—180.			

HEALTH.

Hospital.—The Cherbourg Hospital is under the control of the South Burnett Hospitals Board and details of Hospital activities may be found in the Board's Annual Report.

Dentist.—

Number of visits	39
Number of fillings	739
Number of extractions	532
Number of dentures	3

Optometrist.—

Number of visits	4
Number of patients	43

Notifiable Diseases.—

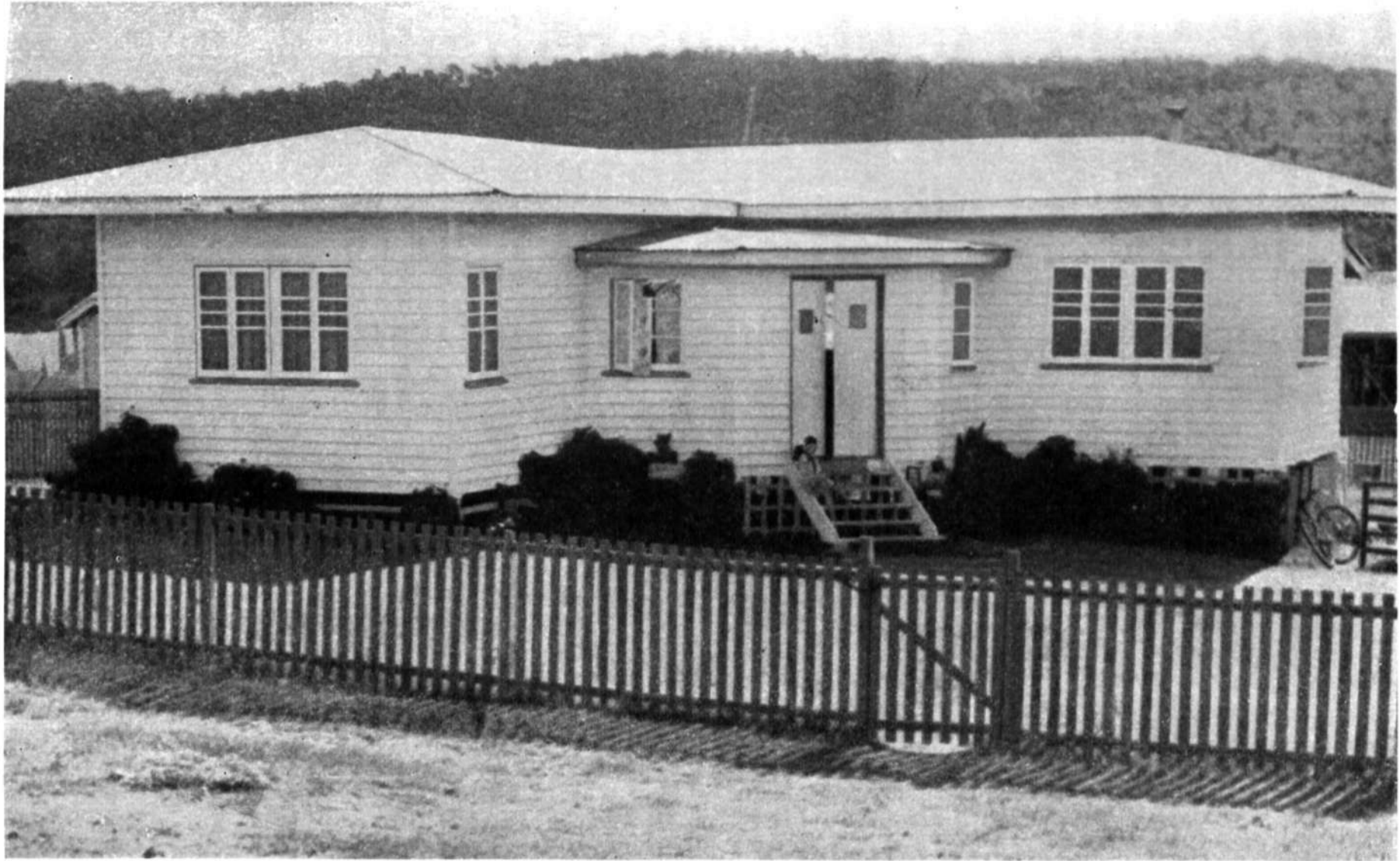
Hansen's Disease	1
Tuberculosis	6
Venereal Disease	4

The health of the community generally is good and no serious epidemics were experienced. Scabies continues to present problems of complete eradication. However, this and other problems are kept under close observation and preventative measures are in operation regularly.

Continuous effort has been made to maintain medical fitness of the whole population. Immunisation against Poliomyelitis with Salk Vaccine has been completed with all children six months to sixteen years. Numbers of mothers and other adults have also received Salk Vaccine.

A total of 61 infants received Triple Antigen injections and 107 children and infants received Mantoux tests and B.C.G. injections.

Continued efforts have been made to educate the population in respect to health and medical fitness per medium of picture screenings by the Health Education Council, distribution of the



New Type Settlement House, Cherbourg Settlement.

Council's literature, and personal advice by the Medical Superintendent, Cherbourg Hospital staff, Baby Welfare Officer, Hygiene Officer, Welfare Officer, and Superintendent.

RAINFALL.

The year's total was 21.24 inches over 48 wet days. Of the above total, 10.01 inches fell from the 1st January, 1958, to 31st March, 1958.

Total rainfall for the calendar year 1957 was 15.03 inches, and consequently severe drought conditions existed until late January, 1958. Bush fires during the spring and early summer destroyed several thousand acres of grass and pasture. To bring the bush fires under control required the use of all available manpower.

EDUCATION.

Enrolment figures varied from 282 to 289 during 1957 and increased to 337 during 1958. The daily attendance for the 1957 period covered by this report was 260, and for the 1958 period it was 310.8, an average of 89.8 per cent.

A boy, Henry Hegarty, passed the 1957 Scholarship Examination and is attending the Murgon State High School studying Industrial Junior subjects. A total of four native children from the Settlement, two each boys and girls, are now attending the Murgon State High School, which indicates the success of the Government's education policy for aboriginal children. With the advancement of education to Scholarship standard is reflected a higher ambition in the children. This is illustrated from the fact that three girls have approached the Head Teacher and myself and stated that they desire to take up nursing, and a proposal will be put forward on their behalf immediately they reach the minimum age for entry into the nursing profession.

Domestic Science.—A reorganised scheme is now being prepared and will be brought into operation at an early date. During the year enrolment in this section varied from 26 to 30, and in the needlework class from 95 to 108.

Manual Training Section.—Enrolment varied from 32 to 42 boys. This section operates on similar lines to those applying to State Schools throughout the State. Samples of all sections of school work were included in this Settlement's display at the 1957 Royal National Exhibition, Murgon and Wondai Shows, and a very comprehensive display was included in this Settlement 1957 Show.

School Accommodation.—The erection of a new manual training class room is under way. This building, which is based on steel prefabricated construction, has a floor area of 60 feet by 40 feet, and will relieve the accommodation problem considerably. The full programme calls for the erection of—

- (1) New school building of nine class rooms;
- (2) Manual training class room;
- (3) Domestic Science class room.

It is anticipated that further material will become available during the year 1958-59.

Reports indicate that the behaviour of children generally has been satisfactory and they have applied themselves to the work set them.

Teaching staff has been stable and teachers, both white and native, have devoted themselves earnestly to the duties required of them.

The school competed in the annual district school sports and were placed second in the "A" School Competition.

Five children gained places in the district team which competed in the Queensland State School Championships in Brisbane. The school football team won the John Kemp Memorial Shield for the second year in succession and the school cricket team is leading in the schools' fixtures, the final round of which will be played later in the year.

BABY WELFARE.

This centre functions very successfully and wholehearted co-operation is given to the Officer in Charge by the native mothers.

A close liaison exists between the centre and the Cherbourg Hospital and therefore the maximum of medical attention where required is available to the child and the mother.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Careful attention is given to this aspect of health. The sanitary service to public lavatories, homes occupied by large families, dormitories and staff quarters is not less than six services per week, and all other lavatories three services per week.

Garbage is removed daily from Monday to Friday, and potential breeding places of flies, mosquitoes and other vermin are sought out and destroyed, and preventive measures are on a routine basis.

SEWERAGE.

This plant is in minimum operation in that the Cherbourg Hospital only is connected. The balance of the sewerage project is well advanced and proceeding satisfactorily.

WATER SUPPLY.

Pumping and water treatment has operated satisfactorily. The flocculation tank and filters have been cleaned as required and other sections serviced and maintained in satisfactory condition. Water samples were taken for laboratory checking at intervals during the year.

Approximately 30,000 gallons of water are consumed daily.

SAWMILL.

The boiler of this plant failed during the year, the fault being of such a serious nature that the mill was closed down on the 7th June. The work of electrification of the sawmill has now been completed and the plant is operating satisfactorily.



Boy Scouts, Cherbourg Settlement.

Logs milled during the year were:—

—	Logs.	Contents.		Recovery.
		Super. ft.	Super. ft.	
Hardwood	127	52,619	29,346	
Pine	34	12,864	9,842	
Totals ..	161	65,483	39,188	

Timber machined—12,600 lin. ft. 4in. x lin. flooring.

BUILDINGS.

The temporary closure of the sawmill affected the erection of new buildings. A total of three native cottages were completed and occupied and two cottages are 50 per cent. complete. Foundation blocks have been erected and levelled for seventeen others.

The erection of steel work is completed on the manual training class room and the domestic science class room.

Maintenance and repair work was carried out on the following buildings:—

- Forty-four Native Cottages
- Retail Store
- Girls' Dormitory
- Baby Welfare Clinic
- Show Pavilion, at present in use as class rooms, windows repaired and concrete floor of the play shed completed
- Staff quarters occupied by the Settlement Overseer, Head Stockman, Hygiene Officer, Settlement Matron, and Sawyer repaired and renovated.

PAINTING.

The following painting work was completed:—

- Seven new Native Cottages.
- Two existing Native Cottages.
- Three Native Cottages had two coats each inside painted by the occupants in their off work periods.
- One Girls' Dormitory, which is a large two storied building was cleaned down and given three coats each inside and out. Outbuildings were also painted.
- One Settlement Matron's quarters, two coats each inside and out.
- One Hygiene Officer's quarters given two coats inside, carried out by the Hygiene Officer during weekends.
- One Sawyer's quarters given two coats inside and a commencement made on the exterior.
- Two Manual Training buildings and Domestic Science buildings—all steel work wire brushed and cleaned and given one coat aluminium paint.
- One Butcher Shop given one coat sealer inside and two coats paint, and a commencement made on the exterior.

TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

The high standard of work already established has been maintained and very favourable comments have been received on the quality of the production of this Training Workshop.

During the year a "White" tenoning machine was installed. This has speeded up production and is the medium for more comprehensive training for natives employed in this section.

This workshop has expanded to such an extent that some machines originally installed are now unable to cope with the production required of them and it is intended to request

replacement of the 6-in combination jointer with a 16-in. jointer-surfacer, and the small circular saw, which is actually part of the manual training school equipment, with a canting spindle dimension saw.

At present trainees in this workshop are three men, one improver, three boys full time and two boys part time from the manual training class.

Production is listed hereunder:—

- 397 pairs silky oak casements.
- 42 pine framed and sheeted doors.
- 23 coffins.
- 3 pine tables, 25ft.
- 12 pine trestles for tables.
- 6 silky oak dining room chairs.
- 1 silky oak dining room table.
- 1 pine office table.
- 1 pine typiste's table.
- 81 dual desks.
- 162 dual desk chairs.
- 6 pine dressing tables.
- 1 pine chest of drawers.
- 7 pine kitchen cabinets.
- 2 pine half-glass doors.
- 1 pine kitchen unit.
- 2 pine palm stands for Show.
- 2 pine tables for Show.
- 1 silky oak mirror stand.
- 21 pine kitchen tables.
- 192 pine kitchen chairs.
- 110 sweeps cut for sewerage.
- 55 pine flush panel doors.
- 1 pine wardrobe.
- 5 pine school presses.
- 1 pine combination wardrobe.
- 2 pine cots.
- 1 pine kitchen safe.
- 93 pine ledge doors.
- 1 pine sideboard.
- 4 pine kitchen stools.
- 5 pair pine french lights.
- 1 pine cupboard.
- 400 feet pine cover strip.
- 682 super feet D. pine for displays.
- 5,000 feet pine casement stops.

STOCK.

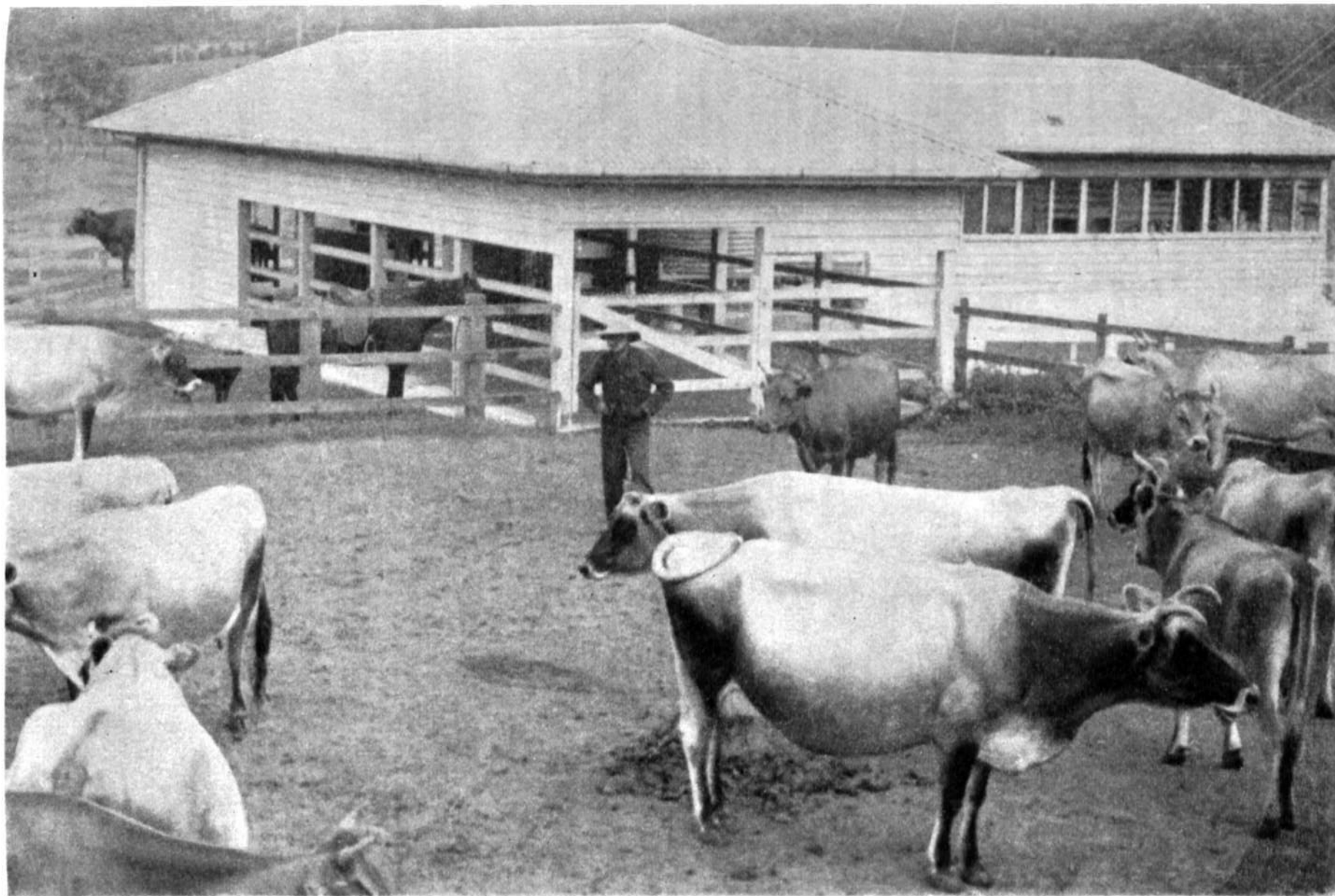
Dingoes have been a serious problem and a full time dogger (Native Stockman) has been employed on this work. Twenty-five dingoes have been trapped by him. A further number, estimated at thirty, principally pups, have been caught by natives during their off work periods. They, of course, receive the bonus payment for scalps, and this is an incentive to them.

The continued feeding of a phosphate supplement over the past four years has been of great benefit to the herd and was a principal factor in bringing such a large percentage of animals through the drought.

Book figures show stock at 31st March, 1958, as:—

Bulls	20
Herd cows	345
Maiden heifers	244
Speyed cows	4
Steers	64
Weaners	184
Calves	298
Miscellaneous cows	3
Bleeder	1

1,163



Government Training Farm, Dairy and Jersey Herd.

Bulls.—During the year bulls which had been in work for some years were sold and twenty fresh ones purchased. The average cost of these bulls was £63 per head.

Horses.—The following were purchased:—

One Stallion—£63.
Fifteen Saddle horses—Average price £9 5s. 4d.
Eight Draught horses—Average price £9 5s.

Fences have been maintained and Fisher's Dam, Cherbourg Dam, and Long Waterhole have been fenced.

Three campaigns to combat noxious weeds were undertaken, the methods used being hormone spray, hand pulling after rain, and grubbing out with a hoe.

Transactions—

	£	s.	d.
Sale of old bulls	327	14	3
Sale of old horses	1	10	0
Sale of hair	45	0	10
Sale of hides	622	5	3
Sale of glues, etc.	51	15	1
	<hr/>		
	£1,048	5	5

Thirty-eight head of Cherbourg cattle were killed for beef, the average weight dressed being 437·6 lb.

Twenty-five culled cows from the Aboriginal Training Farm were killed for beef, the average dressed weight being 308·6 lb.

The total value of Cherbourg and Training Farm stock killed for beef was £1,389.

Purchases.—328 head of cows were purchased for beef, the average dressed weight being 448·5 lb., and the cost was £8,041 7s. 6d., or 13·2d. per lb.

Less returns from hides, glues and cow hair, totalling £628 19s. 4d., results in a nett cost of £7,412 8s. 1d. or 12·08d. per lb.

General.—Para grass or giant couch has been introduced at Green Swamp and is progressing satisfactorily.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

Commercial Butter—7,729 lb. realised £1,387 2s. net.

Pigs sold—175 pigs sold realised £1,932 5s. 5d.
Broom millet—13 cwt. 3 qr. realised £123 15s.

Stock at 31st March, 1958—

Bulls	3
Dairy Cows	58
Heifers	15
Weaners	8
	<hr/>
Total	84

Pigs at 31st March, 1958—

Boars	2
Sows	10
Fatteners	17
Stores	44
Suckers	41
	<hr/>
Total	114

Crops at 31st March, 1958—

20 acres Maize grown yielded 170 bags.
4 acres Broom Millet yielded 13 cwt. 3 qr.—was despatched to the Queensland Industrial Institute for the Blind.
22 acres Lucerne was cut and stored, also grazed.
35 acres Barley was grazed.
12 acres Milo harvested.
3 acres Lucerne and Buffel grazed.
14 acres Poona Pea and Sudan grazed.
8 acres Vegetables cultivated and supplied for Settlement use in season.
7 acres Pumpkins grown and fed to pigs.
270 lb. Honey robbed and sent to Settlement and Hospital.
1,410 dozen Oranges were grown and distributed to Settlement inmates.
67 dozen Lemons also distributed to Settlement.

Severe drought conditions severely affected all farm activities and production. However, it will be noted that 175 pigs were sold for a return of £1,932 5s. 5d. as against 125 during 1956-57 for a return of £1,628 1s. 9d.

The dairy herd was tested for brucellosis during the year and a number of cows proved positive. Therefore culling of the herd has been intensified. Heifers are now being treated with Strain 19 Vaccine for the control of this disease.

Drought conditions highlighted the requirement for larger areas of improved pasture and the extension of the irrigation plant.

An area of land approximately 30 acres is in the process of being cleared, grubbed and fenced, and 12 acres are almost ready for planting. This area is not first class arable land. However, as all first class country is under cultivation, the poorer type of soil must be used and improved.

The area sown to lucerne-buffel grass referred to in the 1956-57 Annual Report—came away very well. The buffel grass was allowed to seed and 1½ sacks of seed heads were harvested. This seed will be cleaned and used for planting further areas with this type of grass.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

The International truck received extensive overhaul and is now operating satisfactorily. Other vehicles have been maintained in satisfactory operational condition.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

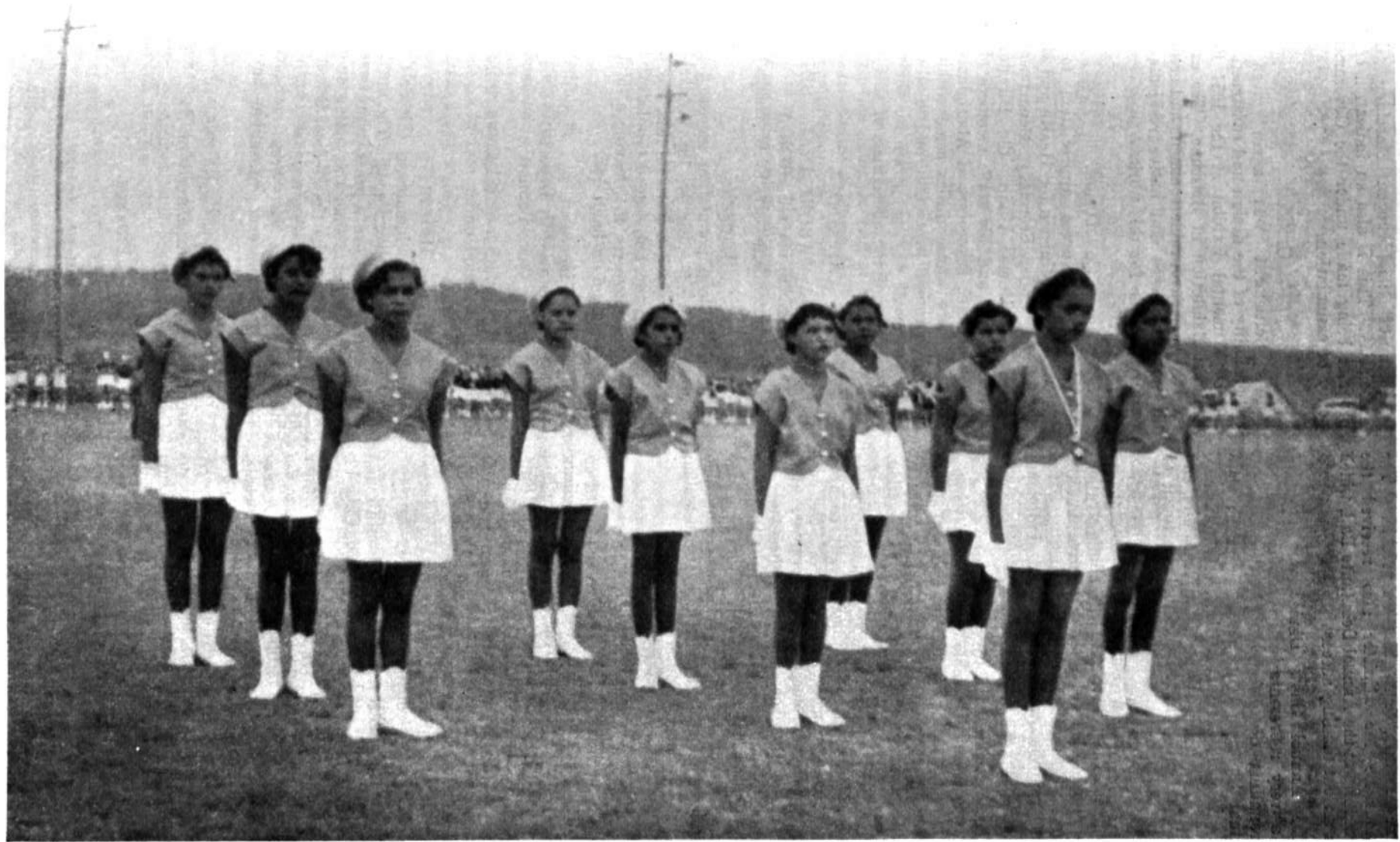
Outstanding events of the year were:—

Christmas Tree and associated presentations.

Annual Show and Dinner.

Annual Debutante Ball.

Participation in the Departmental Exhibit at the 1957 Royal National Show in Brisbane.



Marching Girls, Cherbourg Settlement.

The 1957 Cherbourg Annual Show was opened by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. H. W. Noble. The Honourable the Minister also received the debutantes at the Annual Debutante Ball, which was an outstanding success.

The Annual Show Dinner was attended by a very representative gathering from the surrounding district. Other visitors to the Annual Show and associated functions were Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A. (Barambah), Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, and Mr. W. B. Draffin, Inspector, Department of Native Affairs.

The Association continues to accept its responsible part in Settlement administration. The co-operation from the Executive and the various Committees which constitute the Association is wholehearted and individual members take a keen interest in the Association.

The Association Library continues to be a credit to those responsible for its conduct and a scheme is now being considered which will enable a reading room to be constructed and the establishment of a technical reference section.

Under the auspices of the Association many branches of sport are enthusiastically engaged in with a large measure of success. The outstanding sporting success of the year was that of Jeffrey Dynevor, who won the Amateur Queensland and Australian Boxing Championships, flyweight division. This young man was unlucky owing to an accident, not being able to compete in the final selection as an Australian Empire Games representative.

ANZAC DAY.

A Commemorative Service was conducted on the Settlement by the Rev. J. Donne, Anglican Missionary. Tokens of remembrance were laid on the Honour Board by the Murgon Sub-Branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. and Settlement residents. The Resolutions were read by Councillor J. Krebs, Chairman of the Murgon Shire Council.

BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION.

This movement is now established on a sound basis, the enrolment being—Scouts 36, Cubs 12.

The Cherbourg Troop attended the Easter Camp held at Nanango and were a credit to the Scout Movement and to this Settlement. A very energetic Committee applied themselves wholeheartedly to the work of raising funds and a total of £335 was raised during the year. A grant of £156 was also made to the Scout Committee by the Welfare Association. The sum total of the effort was that all Scouts and Cubs have been outfitted and camping and other gear of a very high standard has been purchased.

MARCHING GIRLS.

This movement is now firmly established. Teams from this Settlement competed in competitions held at Kingaroy, Maryborough and Murgon, and received very favourable comment on their marching and behaviour.

The Settlement teams with their chaperones and instructors are registered with and are full members of the Murgon Marching Girls' Association. This is also an indication of the progress being made under the Government's policy of assimilation.

GENERAL.

This Settlement was again given the responsibility of the design and construction of the Departmental Exhibit at the 1957 Royal National Exhibition in Brisbane. The exhibit received very favourable comment and credit is due to the officers and native residents who were responsible for this work.

CONCLUSION.

I desire to express appreciation to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, members of the Settlement staff, Protectors of Aborigines and Police Officers whose duties come within the orbit of aboriginal protection, and to all others who in no small way co-operate for the uplift and protection of the aborigines of this State.

APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT, VIA DUARINGA.

(Superintendent—Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

STATISTICS.

The Full Blood population increased by 26 over the period—(Births 19, Arrivals 60, Deaths 8 (of which 3 were infants, one a girl of 21 years of age, and 4 aged people, one being 70 years), Departures 45), leaving a total Full Blood Population on hand 487.

Half Castes increased by 36 (Births 8, Arrivals 54, Deaths Nil, Departures 26), leaving a total Half Caste Population on hand 294.

The total population of 781 shows an increase of 62 for the period under review.

HEALTH.

The health of the inmates of this Settlement can be described as very good. The number of infant deaths (3) show a great improvement in the infant death rate since the setting up of the Laboratory. Visits by the Medical Officer have been reasonably maintained at fortnightly intervals. Hygiene has been satisfactorily maintained. Hookworm infestation has been greatly reduced.

Hospital admissions were 788, of which number 66 were transferred to Rockhampton General Hospital.

FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
Cash Collections	34,569	18	5
Banked to Natives' Savings Bank Accounts	7,492	13	8
Settlement Maintenance	826	9	10
Retail Store Credit Sales to Natives	24,346	9	0
Retail Store Credit Sales to Officials	3,535	18	5
Retail Store Sales to Natives on Order	4,769	16	0

RAINFALL.

Although the total rainfall registration was 1,676 points for the period, only 524 points fell during the latter 1957 months of the period under review which, with a very cold winter, made rain very necessary. The first three months of 1958 yielded 1,127 points for twenty-one wet days.

SAWMILL.

The sawmill has operated at a steady pace during the year. Log snigging equipment proved to be very troublesome.

The gross measurement of 685 logs (hardwood) hauled was 303,966 superficial feet. The gross contents of 809 logs milled was 333,777 superficial feet. Recovery was 157,132 superficial feet. Timber dressed was 33,593 superficial feet.

BUILDINGS.

Buildings completed during the year were six native cottages complete with all outbuildings, and two other buildings. Buildings under construction as at the end of the period are as follows:—Native Welfare Hall, Plumber's and Blacksmith Shop and Court House.

Repair work was also carried out on twenty-six of the older native cottages.

FARMING.

Vegetables produced at the Farm and distributed to natives were as follows:—

Turnips	3 tons 17 cwt.
Carrots	6 cwt.
Beetroot	16 cwt.
Onions	2 tons 6 cwt.
Tomatoes	45 bushels
Cabbage	407 doz.
Cauliflower	155 doz.
Lettuce	60 bushels
Watermelons	2 tons 15 cwt.
Rockmelons	1 ton
Marrows and Squash	16 bushels
Cucumbers	75½ bushels
Kohl rabbi	3 tons 5 cwt.

Three and one-half tons of lucerne hay have been harvested and stored for the winter feeding of milkers. Eight acres of oats were grazed off to the milkers. Twenty-eight acres of broom millet were planted late, and are now showing good progress.

DAIRY.

Milk production was 9,895 gallons. Milk is issued to natives and hospital free. Officials paid £35 15s. for milk.

GARAGE AND TRANSPORT.

The total mileage covered by all vehicles, including Foleyvale vehicles, was—Trucks, 50,787 miles, Utilities 12,549 miles, Jeep and Land Rover 6,274 miles.

No new vehicles were supplied. Two major engine overhauls were necessary and two gear boxes gave considerable trouble. Both units were from the trucks.

The biggest haulage job was the hauling of 685 hardwood mill logs, which constituted a gross measurement of 303,966 superficial feet.

Passengers carried were 2,112, consisting of Foleyvale workers 829; other passengers 374, which number paid £176 9s. 6d.; 216 Hospital patients, and 239 escorts and removees, who were carried free. All truck drivers are natives of this Settlement.

One 1942 Model 3-ton Truck was disposed of for £120.

LIVESTOCK.

The Cattle Register figures are as follows:—

Herd bulls	63
Herd cows	1,881
Bullocks	317
Steers	326
Heifers	350
Speyed cows	470
Dairy cows	59
Total cattle	3,466

(Herd cows include heifers one year and over.)

Horses—

Draught	44
Saddle	130

Cattle movements throughout the period under review were as follows:—

Transferred from Foleyvale to Woora-binda for killings	146
Calves branded	677
Steers transferred to Foleyvale	203
Bullocks transferred to Foleyvale	94
Speyed cows transferred to Foleyvale	91
Bleeder bullock transferred to Foleyvale	1
Cattle killed for rations	356
Pigs killed for rations	55
Total meat weight	163,196 lb.
Issued to natives	146,629 lb.
Sold to officials	16,567 lb.
Hides sold	383
Realised	£562 2s. 6d.
Rebate on sale of hides	£6 0s. 8d.
Herd bulls purchased	7

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

The supply of electricity has been maintained throughout the year. The natives and the Hospital are supplied free of cost. The amount of £132 2s. 6d. was paid by officials for the supply of electricity, based on meter readings.

SEWING ROOM.

The following articles were made in the Settlement sewing room for issue to the natives:—

Dresses	692
Slips	589
Pyjamas	12
Playsuits	131
School Tunics	3
Skirts	28
Blouses	14
Boys' Shorts	3
Sheets	4
Pillow Slips	48

CONDUCT.

The conduct of inmates was satisfactory.

EDUCATION.

The school for natives shows an enrolment as at the 31st March, 1958, of 102 boys, 113 girls, making a total of 215 children. The aggregate attendances over the 204 school days was—Boys 19,180.5; Girls 19,114; Total Attendances 38,294.5.

The daily average attendance was—Boys 94; Girls 93.7; Total 187.7.

Lynette Booth is still attending the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School and should sit for the Junior Examination at the end of the present year.

WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The Association has continued to function with similar success as in previous years.

The Annual Sports were conducted in September, 1957. The same success was achieved as in previous years. Football and cricket continue to be played in season.

ENTERTAINMENT.

Talkie screenings, being the most popular form of entertainment on the Settlement, are greatly appreciated and looked forward to with great interest by all each Saturday night.

Work has progressed satisfactorily with the new Recreation Hall and is proving a valuable asset with the advent of the cold weather. Dances are also held in the new hall on Wednesday and Friday nights, the former being for children.

The Association is grateful for all assistance given both Departmentally and otherwise which has contributed towards its success.

APPENDIX 4.

DOOMADGEE MISSION, VIA BURKETOWN.
(Superintendent—Mr. J. Talbot.)

STAFF.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hockey
Mr. and Mrs. L. Knott
Mr. and Mrs. Kay
Miss I. Black (Registered Nurse)
Miss G. Crouch
Miss P. Roberts
Miss H. Rossow
Mr. H. L. Fawssett
Miss F. Bearfield (Relieving registered nurse)

POPULATION.

			Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Total.
Males—					
Adults			11	91	102
Under 16 years ..			16	74	90
Females—					
Adults			7	93	100
Under 16 years ..			17	67	84
			51	325	376

Natives drawing rations from mission funds at this date	135
Births	17
Deaths	5
Transfers in	18
Transfers out	19
Marriages	3
Natives visiting from other places ..	40
Net increase in population for the year	11

HEALTH.

General state of health may be considered good.

The 'flu epidemic suffered elsewhere in the Commonwealth was suffered also here and had a weakening effect on the subjects noticeable for some time. First injection of salk vaccine was given to 135 natives.

Health Inspector Mr. P. J. O'Shea spent three weeks here chiefly checking for hookworm incidence. Only three cases were discovered here and those were natives who had recently arrived from other protectorates.

The Flying Doctor based at Clonecurry paid nine clinic visits and seven special visits.

HOSPITAL.

Our hospital building originally envisaged a centre for attending outpatients and for dispensing dressings and medicines. The population has much increased and the people have become more hospital minded so that even the older men and women gladly take advantage of nursing at hospital when they are really sick. It is not unusual for the one ward of our hospital to be fully occupied by women and children and at same time to have a man or two occupying beds on the veranda. A new annexe was planned several years ago and time has come when it is an urgent necessity.

Prenatal and ante-natal care, advice and treatment given. Here again is a marked change in the attitude of the women who once would not only have kept away but would have resented any approach in this respect.

MOTHER-CRAFT AND CHILD WELFARE.

Mothers are instructed and helped with the proper care of babies. Seventeen births and no infant deaths for the year is indicative of the value of this service. All children up to the age of six years get special attention and food at this centre every morning. Children up to six years of age are nearly all in the care of their mothers who receive the relative child endowment allowance and spend it in the interests of their children.

Children over six years of age are mostly in the care of the institution and we believe they enjoy better health as a result of regular balanced meals and regularity of habits, etc. There are 115 between six and twenty years in our complete care at the date of this report.

Meals consist of hot wheat porridge and milk for breakfast. For dinner, except on Sundays when a cold lunch is served, there is always hot meat with vegetables in season. The evening meal consists of wholemeal bread and jam or other spread with raw fruit or vegetables in season or eggs. Children who are under par at any time receive extra milk with Pentavite. Older children have tea to drink.

EDUCATION.

School was conducted by Mr. L. Fawssett assisted by Miss H. Rossow for 207 days with almost 100 per cent. attendance of the 100 scholars. A full Queensland State School syllabus is in progress for the current year.

CONDUCT.

On the whole conduct has been good both among the adults and young people.

SOCIAL.

For the school children every Wednesday afternoon is set for sport which is organised by the school staff.

On Saturday afternoons and special holidays there is sport for all. Most often it is football in which both the young men and young women take part very keenly, and with excellent spirit.

RELIGIOUS.

It is felt that increased amusements, particularly the radio which is now possessed by so many of the people, is responsible for a distinct falling off in attendance at meetings. The spiritual tone has also declined except amongst those who are earnest in Christian walk and attendance at meetings convened by the church.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES.

Throughout 1957 the demand for native stockmen and for domestics continued strong, and all fit and available labour was absorbed.

Labour demand opened briskly in January, 1958, and most of the stockmen then available were got away to cattle stations by plane. Drought conditions prevailing in some of the districts where our natives are generally employed slackened the demand in those quarters. Good rain has since fallen in some districts and I anticipate the little available labour remaining may soon be taken up.

To give an idea of the part played by aircraft in the transport of natives, and the importance of the Doomadgee airport to our natives and to the grazing industry, the following data is given in respect only of the quarter year 1st January to 31st March, 1958.

Passengers lifted from Doomadgee.—84 per T.A.A., 45 per Bush Pilot.

Passengers disembarked at Doomadgee.—32 per T.A.A., 6 per Bush Pilot.

A considerable amount of freight also was brought in for the period.

BUILDING.

The concrete-constructed dormitory for accommodation of institution boys, with floor area of 1,383 square feet, with quarters for one male staff worker, which was begun last year has been completed except for plastering and painting of interior walls.

Extensive maintenance has had to be carried out on the staff quarters at dormitory for institution girls. Interior alterations were at the same time carried out for greater convenience of the occupants—particularly for the sewing section.

Maintenance and painting has been carried out on buildings throughout the mission.

AERODROME.

Very much maintenance work has had to be carried out on the main landing strip. Constant use of the strip by DC3 planes wears and blows away the natural surface. Hundreds of tons of

ant-bed have been carted as filling for the hollowed out centre of runway. Our two 3-ton Trucks, Tractor with dozer blade, Grader, and Roller, with other earth-working equipment plus much willing native labour made the drome a scene of major earth works operations for some weeks.

The cost to make it an all-weather air strip is too great for us to consider, but what we have done has vastly improved it.

FARMING.

Vegetable Garden.—Heavy rains in April, 1957, washed out all our early sowings for vegetables. Renewed sowings came on very well and there was a fair supply of mixed vegetables up until the heat of November. Sweet Potatoes harvested well right through till after Christmas and again from March, 1958, onwards.

Supplies of potatoes free of cost to the people were given them all. The same applied to Pumpkins except that supplies cut out earlier and recommenced later.

Fruit Trees.—Citrus has been given more attention than ever before, as regards spraying more particularly, but it is now determined that the damage to fruit we mostly suffer is not from fruit fly but from a large moth. However, though spraying was not a success we have had a very fair harvest of oranges and lemons.

Mangoes bore very well indeed and provided an untired-of supply of fruit for all from October until early January.

Bananas have been poor. They needed tropical rain in January to create the humidity in plantations that they appear to need here.

Shade Trees.—Nurseries for starting the ornamental Poinciana and fruiting Mangoes have been extended. Some started Athol trees have been planted out and most of them seem to be getting established. We hope to be able to start more of these Athol for shade and wind-breaks. The Poinciana and Mango are continually having to be replaced owing to white ant destruction.

Apiary.—Despite every effort to save the apiary we had established over the years, the ravages of all sorts of ants plus other abnormal circumstances combined to destroy all. We shall make an effort to get the apiary going again at an early date.

Poultry.—Food to maintain a big flock of birds is expensive but the value of our abundant egg supply is incalculable. We have now added Muscovy Ducks to our Poultry section.

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY.

New bigger capacity supply pipes have been laid from near the pump head to all points of the mission. It has been planned so as to provide for any extensions likely to be necessary for many years. A storage tank installed at native village has only 500-gallon capacity but by filling their personal utensils while the pumping plant is operating each day, the people have enough water for all practical purposes without carrying from the river. The water pressure is excellent at every point of new service.

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

At comparatively small cost we have added a Ford 3-ton blitz wagon and a 6-ton G.M.C. 6 x 6 Truck to our Rolling Stock.

Our tractors—Ferguson, Farmal, and Fordson are all maintained in working order, likewise other engines, motors, farm machinery and workshop machinery, and equipment.

CATTLE AND HORSES AND SADDLERY.			
Cattle on hand at 1st April, 1957	1,987		
<i>Add—</i>			
Brandings for year ..	490		
		2,477	
<i>Less—</i>			
Estimated shrinkage ..	216		
Slaughtered for own consumption	71		
Sales	295		
		582	
Cattle on hand 31st, March, 1958		1,895	
Horses on hand at 1st April, 1957			120
Horses on hand at 31st March, 1958			125

Although the year began well with good rains in January, February, and March, 1957, we do not appear to have had a very successful year. We were unable to work the cattle much during the early summer months owing to dry conditions and poorness of both cattle and horses, plus the fact that cattle had scattered far and wide in search of better feed.

Only 10 inches rain had fallen from October, 1957, to 27th March, 1958, but in the next four days we had 19 inches which filled all the bush water holes and soaked the country well.

Cattle yards have been maintained and some extended during the year. Start has been made, by erection of 5 miles of new fencing, on creation of a new 40 square miles holding paddock requiring approximately 13 miles of new fencing.

GENERAL.

Though really much has been accomplished towards development of the Reserve and in the interests of the people, we lament the immensity of work planned but so far hardly touched. However, we have put measures in hand for much to be accomplished in the next year. Already we have begun work on a sanitary project which has perplexed us all along because of the nature of our soil and the lay of the land. The project in hand is a septic tank system to care for about 200 persons. If it proves successful we shall be able to extend the same system to provide for the whole population.

A builder is expected here soon with probably other tradesmen, and we are confident of doing much more towards accommodation for natives in the village.

THANKS.

Appreciation is expressed for the considerations, advice, and assistance received of the Director of Native Affairs, and his staff.

APPENDIX 5.

YARRABAH MISSION, via CAIRNS.
(Superintendent—Captain J. Wilcox, C.A.)

During the year there have been many changes in personnel, policy and productivity. Captain H. E. Cole and his wife left at the beginning of the year. The Superintendency was taken over by Captain J. Wilcox, C.A. With the departure of the Dormitory Matron, the storeman and the farmer we have been very short staffed at times. New staff are arriving and we will have the advantage of having a carpenter, adequate store staff but still a need to be met in the office.

With the arrival of Mr. W. Jamison the works supervisor and Mr. C. Anderson as Sawyer, considerable development has taken place.

POPULATION.

March 31st—					
Full-blood					147
Others					635
					782
Deaths					8
Births					25
Marriages					1

CHURCH.

During the first half of the year there was a decline in Church attendance. This position has been retrieved. Services during Lent were well attended. There were full churches for the Good Friday services. The work among women and children through their organisations is a stabilizing influence. Canon E. R. B. Gribble was laid to rest at Yarrabah on 17th October.

WORKSHOP.

This has been resurrected and the equipment such as the lathe and drilling machine has been put into working order, enabling us to do an increased amount of our own running repairs. We have received both gas and electric welding equipment and they are proving their worth daily. A band saw is being restored and we are hopeful of being able to complete repairs on a disused 12 x 4 planing machine in the near future.

SAWMILL.

The building has been extended, roofing repairs carried out, a new 50 H.P. International engine has been installed and a docking saw and bench unit has been added. The production of the mill has shown a remarkable increase. This was boosted by the arrival of a jinker unit before the wet season set in. The improved output of timber was responsible for the progress made with the housing programme.

PRODUCTION.

Number of logs				927
Gross super feet				330,515
Net recovery				162,500

HOUSING.

This programme commenced about November, 1956, but was held up seriously because of the lack of timber supplies. We have been able to complete 14 native houses, two staff houses and a gaol. Other houses are in progress of building. All staff houses have been put into a good state of repair and any native houses that were worth the effort.

FARM.

Our effort here still leaves room for improvement. When the replacement of staff arrives we are planning development in these areas. More bananas were planted this year and were with other produce a useful supplement to rations.

PRODUCE.

Bananas	.. ..	{ 8,908 lb.	
		{ 8,662 lb.	to market
Pawpaw	.. ..	1,087 lb.	
Pumpkin	.. ..	7,840 lb.	
Cassava	.. ..	1,767 lb.	
Pineapple	.. ..	{ 1,750 lb.	
		{ 15,570 lb.	to market
Cabbage (Ball)	.. ..	1,814 lb.	
Cabbage (Chinese)	.. ..	925 lb.	
Sweet Potatoes	.. ..	3,476 lb.	
Water Melon	.. ..	5,443 lb.	
French Beans	.. ..	1,624 lb.	
Lettuce	.. ..	459 lb.	
Cucumbers	.. ..	902 lb.	
Tomatoes	.. ..	{ 796 lb.	
		{ 700 lb.	to market

ROADWORK.

General work of maintenance has been carried out. Culverting with concrete pipes has begun where creeks cross the roads replacing wooden bridges. A new road from Gribble Point to Head Station has been started and good progress has been made. This will save hours of wasted effort involved in unloading stores at low tides.

HEALTH.

A good standard was maintained during the year. A regular service once a fortnight by a doctor from the Base Hospital Cairns continues to influence and raise the standard in the Mission.

Optical.—Government appointed optometrist visited the Reserve for his annual check-up.

Salk Vaccine.—The third injections were completed to all children.

Anti-tetanus.—All the population have received their first injection. About half received three injections to date.

Hookworm Survey.—This is in progress and complete figures are not available.

One case of Tetanus was reported. One death occurred from Brights disease.

EMPLOYMENT.

Fewer men were required for employment in the cane fields this year. The main reason being the influx of new Australians in the area. The

number employed under agreement is 70. One boy has been apprenticed by a Brisbane engineering firm. One girl is at a Queensland hospital doing the work of a trainee nurse.

EDUCATION.

With an increase in staff it has been possible to concentrate more than previously with the work in the school. For the first time a seventh grade is in term. Three girls continue to do well at St. Gabriel's School, Charters Towers. One boy and one girl are making good progress with their training as Evangelists at the Church Army. One girl is doing a course at St. Michaels, Clayfield, Brisbane.

There are 173 children on the roll with an average attendance of 156 for the year.

EXEMPTIONS.

The first half of the year was troublesome. This has been overcome and a good spirit prevails at the Mission. Three trouble makers were removed and others requested their exemption from the provisions of the Act. Apart from this six families with very good records received their exemption certificates and reports received so far indicate that they are doing very well. A total of 42 men have taken the opportunity to realise their full citizenship. Some are single others are married. The families have remained on the Mission whilst the man has secured employment and accommodation. Every possible support was given to those taking this great step forward.

GENERAL.

It has been possible for us to increase the basic ration to the people in our care during the year. Issues of clothing made to women has been much appreciated. The development of the work of the Curio department is a good sign of industry among the women. The standard of work remains high and it is difficult to keep abreast of the demands. A good variety of goods were sent to the Royal Show. It has been decided to start a Community Association which will have behind it the curio funds and the cinema. The first objective is to build a recreation hall. This we expect to commence next year.

During the year a 28-foot launch was purchased.

The annual sports held at St. Alban's tide, June 17th, was an important event in the year. There is a regular programme of social activity arranged but without a suitable hall there is a limit to its scope. The Rotary Club of Cairns provided a real fare at Christmas.

APPRECIATION.

Without the sympathetic co-operation of the Director of Native Affairs and his staff this report would not be possible. We record our sincere thanks to them and all the friends of Yarrabah who have given us their generous support. In the name of the people in our care we extend our appreciation and gratitude.

APPENDIX 6.

HOPE VALE MISSION.

(Superintendent—Rev. E. C. Kernich.)

STAFF.

Rev. B. F. Hartwig, School Teacher.
 Mr. G. Rose, Farm Manager.
 Mr. R. Hensel, Stockman.
 Mrs. G. Rose, Nursing Sister.

Help was received from various others including Mr. C. Hartwig, builder, Mr. Knopke, builder, Mr. A. Christie, mechanic, Mr. D. Christie, sawmillier.

STATISTICS.

Full bloods	197
Half bloods	163
Births	23
Deaths	3

HEALTH.

Health generally has been satisfactory.

Hookworm still presents a problem. However, regular and consistent treatments by the Sister have reduced the percentage of those effected considerably. The matron and staff of the Cooktown Hospital eased the burden on our Sister by their kind and ready help, particularly in the absence of a resident doctor in Cooktown. Several seriously ill patients were transported to Cairns by the Aerial Ambulance Service, a service which we gratefully acknowledge.

EDUCATION.

The headmaster and part-time assistant teacher were assisted by five native monitresses.

In February a very serious setback was encountered when the wife of the headteacher suffered a sickness which necessitated both of them leaving the Mission rather hurriedly. The school carried on under native monitresses supported by the staff. A new school teacher has since arrived and assumed responsibility for the school.

83 children attended the school with a good average attendance. The school is still run under the old syllabus, but we are considering introducing the new syllabus.

BUILDINGS.

In addition to completing the large new Church nine houses were completed. Four of these homes were at various stages of construction on 31st March 1957, whereas five homes were completely constructed. A further five homes are now in various stages of construction. Several old homes were repaired.

A section of our machinery shed was enclosed to provide for a garage.

SAWMILL.

A total of 72,898 super. feet of sawn timber was produced by the mill for all purposes.

The output at the mill was increased during the last six months of the year due to a full time sawmill manager.

Whereas early in the year the major portion of the timber was brought in from areas within a two-mile radius of the Mission mill, toward the end of the year it was necessary to travel about twenty miles to the Melvor River for supplies. Softwoods were more easily obtainable than hardwoods for framing houses.

AGRICULTURE.

Our main farm area suffered a serious blow when a flood swept through it early last year destroying or damaging about twelve acres under crop. Otherwise results were good apart from the cotton, part of which was affected by the flood and the rest by disease.

879 bags of peanuts were harvested, 333 by the Mission, 118 by the sharefarmers, and 428 by the natives in their private allotments.

10 acres of corn, 6 acres of sweet potatoes, 2 acres of vegetables, 4 acres of pineapples, and two acres of bananas helped to supplement the usual ration.

In October 30 natives began work in a coconut plantation at Elim, one of the former stations on the Reserve. This plantation had been unattended since the beginning of the last war. The undergrowth was cleared away revealing about 700 trees which had survived out of about three thousand. Trees were planted to replace those which had died. The change of work and environment proved beneficial for the natives.

STOCK.

The extremely dry conditions at the end of 1957 caused some cattle losses. The dry weather also forced some of the cattle into areas where zamier palm was prevalent. The result was that a number of cattle were affected by rickets and two bulls were lost. Extra paddocks and eradication of zamier palm in certain areas appear to be the solution.

RECREATION.

Hunting and fishing again proved very popular diversions. During the cooler part of the year football was played with much enthusiasm.

SPIRITUAL.

Services were well attended throughout the year. Sunday School was introduced, and native teachers given a special course of instruction.

The large new Church is now completed apart from some painting in the interior. It is a beautiful building which should lend much to aid in the services which were held in the school building.

The choir practices for services, were well attended, as were several religious evenings.

APPENDIX 7.

BLOOMFIELD RIVER MISSION.

(Established December, 1957.)

STAFF.

Mr. C. A. Hartwig—Superintendent.
 Mrs. C. A. Hartwig—Matron.

On the 17th December, 1957, Mr. C. Hartwig with his wife and family moved into the Bloomfield area to begin a new venture of help and assistance to the natives living near the mouth of the river.

The area reserved for this mission which is situated on the Bloomfield River 48 miles south of Cooktown is 287 acres. At date of opening, the population on the reserve was 120 full bloods and 15 half bloods; total 135.

Earlier Mr. Draffin of the Native Affairs Department, Rev. Wenke, former superintendent of Hope Vale Mission, and Sergeant Hagarty, Protector of Aborigines, Cooktown, investigated the conditions of the natives and agreed that to care for the needs of the natives and promote their advancement it was necessary to have someone in the area to look after their interests.

Formerly the natives received help from the Native Affairs Department through the Protector at Cooktown, who is still doing much to assist the work being done.

The Mission Board of Hope Vale Mission which was interested in the welfare of the Bloomfield natives was able to supply a man who had experience with natives to begin work among the natives at Bloomfield.

With the subsidy from the Department of Native Affairs a vehicle and a prefab. house have been purchased and general improvements in housing and hygiene have been planned for the natives.

While suitable land is being sought on which to erect the prefab. house. Mr. Hartwig is living in a rented home at the Bloomfield Mill from where he can tend the natives' needs.

He has transported several seriously ill patients to Cooktown, from where they were sent on to Cairns through the Aerial Ambulance Service. The natives have been encouraged to observe rules of hygiene, and under the supervision of Mr. Hartwig have begun gardens to supply vegetables for themselves. Hookworm tests have been made and treatments given.

The native children attending the Bloomfield school are now receiving religious instruction.

APPRECIATION.

We wish to express our thanks to the many who have assisted us during the past year with particular mention of the Minister of Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Protector of Aborigines, Cooktown, the Matron and staff of the Cooktown Hospital, and the Cairns Aerial Ambulance Service.

APPENDIX 8.

MONA MONA MISSION, VIA CAIRNS.

(Superintendent—Pastor N. A. Ferris, M.B.E.)

The Mission during the period under review has passed through some changes and with the united help of both Mission Board leadership and Department of Native Affairs' Officers, the Mission is emerging to a new day.

Perhaps one of the main items of interest is the fact that most of the natives are making a more decided effort to co-operate in all sections of activity daily performed on the station.

The Spiritual, Educational, and Medical facilities have played a very important part in developing a better relationship between natives and Europeans and decidedly so among themselves. The new houses provided, which are very conveniently placed near the school and playgrounds, have already proved to be an incentive to better living, and those privileged to be the first occupants are proving to be good housekeepers.

STAFF.

Mr. C. Bailey, Accountant.
Mr. A. Smith, Clerk for Native Affairs.
Mrs. C. Litster, Office and Stenographer.
Mrs. N. Ferris, Manager, Store and Clothing Department and Bakehouse.
Pastor W. G. Ferris, Church Pastor.
Mrs. W. Ferris, Sister.
Mr. Reynolds, Manager, Sawmill.
Mr. Wright, Chief Engineer.
Mr. C. Litster, Foreman Carpentry Department.
Mr. J. Pittard, Assistant Carpenter.
Mr. T. Rowe, Principal of School.
Mrs. L. Weedon, Assistant, Primary School.
Mr. L. Weedon, Forester.

MEDICAL.

During the year our Nurse changed her name from Sister Allum to be Mrs. W. G. Ferris. Both Nurse and her husband continued to stay on the Mission and have rendered very acceptable help. They are, however, leaving us during the next week or two, to take up work out in the Cook Islands. We are therefore compelled to look for another Nurse.

Sister reports 11 births and 4 deaths.

The three (3) natives who proved positive for Hookworm were treated and now show negative reports. One hundred and seventeen children received their final Polio Vaccine in October, 1957, when forty new children commenced—leaving two injections to be completed at the end of this year.

Mr. Elliot, our visiting optometrist, prescribed glasses and treatment for the natives. Three had been successfully treated for Trachoma and one for Epischleritis.

Dr. Paxton and his assistant completed a Tuberculosis survey for all natives on the Mission with B.C.G. treatment during the middle of 1957.

The Flying Dentists and mechanic examined all school children and those adults needing attention toward the end of 1957. Over 100 extractions were made and filling recommended.

We have had the usual summer diarrhoea complaints and about 30 were treated throughout the period. Seventeen babies were treated with triple antigen serum.

A bad form of Influenza went through the school children at the end of March and about six adults were treated also. Thirty-one Hansen suspects and arrested cases have been having routine treatment and regular smears taken.

The hospital building has been completed inside and now with lining, painting completed, and a floor covering with new lino, the building is a centre of attraction.

EDUCATION.

At the close of the 1957 school year Mr. Hay and family were transferred to Samoa where he took up larger duties as Principal of a 600-student College. The natives' farewell gifts indicated their appreciation of his sincere services for their children.

To head up the education work for 1958, we were happy to welcome Mr. and Mrs. E. Rowe who quickly took over and a very fine school programme is being conducted. Mrs. Weedon in her cheery way has a room full of growing humanity and her room is always a source of interest and wonderment to the many tourists who weekly visit us.

The Principal reports an enrolment of 84 in the following grades:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Kindergarten	12	6
Grade 1	9	13
Grade 2	13	3
Grade 3	4	4
Grade 4	6	1
Grade 5	1	4
Grade 6	1	4
Grade 7	—	2
Grade 8	1	—
	47	37
	—	—

Total 84.

SAWMILL.

Much of the Mission's income is derived from the sawmill, sleeper cutting, cane, and firewood. On the night of 28th November, a devastating fire destroyed our mill and entire lighting and generating plant for the Mission. A temporary mill was quickly put up and plans for a new mill began. The Department of Native Affairs and the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Board of Sydney made plans to provide as quickly as possible a replacement of machinery and sawmill installation. This assistance has been greatly appreciated.

During the rebuilding operations of the new mill, our carpenter, Mr. Litster, met with a very serious accident which necessitated his being in hospital for three months. The building programme was very much delayed as a result.

STOCK.

The Santa Gertrudis stock is causing considerable interest, and Mona Mona Diplomat, the young Santa Gertrudis bull born on the station, is growing to be quite a champion. The general standard of the stock is now much improved. Twenty-two A.I.S. cows and heifers have been purchased along with other stock.

GENERAL.

A progressive programme is steadily showing improvement. The Engineer, Mr. Wight has installed a new lighting system of 240 volts and the whole station is very grateful for the present lighting arrangements.

The farm boys are producing vegetables with a hopeful good return of peanuts and cotton, maize and potatoes.

APPRECIATION.

I wish to express very sincere appreciation to Mr. O'Leary whose visit to Mona Mona was most helpful, along with Mr. Draffin and Mr. Bartlam. Such visits not only give added prestige to the leadership of native stations, but the counsel and presence of men directly concerned with Native Affairs, has a sobering and beneficial effect upon the community as a whole.

Pastor Richards has also been very closely associated with me and is deeply interested to achieve better results for the entire station.

Perhaps the financial and material problems absorb our attention, and it is possible to overlook the steady development that is going on in the lives of these indigent people. Results are to be seen in the lives of those families who have received their exemption and three groups moved on from Mona Mona this period. It was gratifying to hear when recently the Mona Mona Native Band had concluded its march for the Anzac Memorial services at Kuranda, an expression from some of the citizens of Kuranda, "These ex natives of Mona Mona, living in our community, are good Christian citizens".

"The first man that I employed when I reopened my sawmill was Mr. . . .".

These are but expressions, but to all who are working for the betterment of the natives of Australia, it means a measure of success and the effort is worthwhile.

And lastly, but by no means the least, I wish to express to my full staff a very sincere appreciation for the loyal and hard work that all have given to make the story of Mona Mona for 1958 possible.

APPENDIX 9.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND PENINSULA AREA.

(P. J. Killoran—Deputy Director of Native Affairs.)

In the social and administrative organisation of Torres Strait, the people have a complete system of self-government, which gives to them home rule and a very definite control in the guidance of their destiny, as a race within the Commonwealth of Australia. It also preserves the dignity and traditions of the Torres Strait people and permits of the incorporation in their by-laws of self-government, many of the finer tribal laws and traditions, which policy is also the basis of British law and government as we know it.

As a race they are proud of their British Nationality which enables allegiance to the same Queen and Flag as all other Australians. That pride in their Nation and the loyalty of their people to their Country has again been demonstrated during their recently concluded Councillors Conference by a resolution of Loyalty to the Throne, carried unanimously by their democratically appointed Councillors, elected by every person over the age of 18 years, in Torres Strait, who have the right to vote.

That Resolution of Loyalty is:—

"We, the Representatives, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Councillors of Six Thousand peoples of Torres Strait respectfully send to you, our Most Gracious Queen a token of our Loyalty, and an assurance that, come what may, we, together with all other peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations, stand solidly in support of our Queen and Country."

and has been conveyed by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs to the Queen through the appropriate channels.

COUNCILLORS' CONFERENCE.

On Wednesday, 21st May, 1958, the Honourable the Minister, Dr. H. W. Noble, at 9 a.m. opened this Conference of 39 Representatives, Chairman and Councillors, representing every inhabited Island in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area, and the thousands of people who inhabit the area. The Representatives supported by the oldest living Councillor responded on behalf of the people.

The visit of the Honourable the Minister, although brief, contributed largely to the success of the Conference, and to probably what was one of the most successful Conferences ever held.

These meetings of all Councillors of all Islands are held every three years, or more often if requested by the Councillors, and bring together all of those people who have a common problem, that is the Government and development and in fact the future of the race of Torres Strait Islanders.

The Agenda of Conference was very large but was capably handled by Councillors who take a keen interest in the welfare and progress of their peoples.

WATER SUPPLIES—ISLAND RETICULATION SCHEMES.

With the provision of funds by the Queensland Government a determined effort has been made for the provision of reticulated water supply schemes for all Islands. Already Bamaga has a complete installation, Mabuiag Island has recently completed a 23,000 gallon concrete reservoir supplying water to the town through a pipe line almost a mile in length.

Coconut Island, which annually has had serious water shortages has installed two 25,000 gallon concrete storage tanks which with wells supplementing the reserve supplies will no longer have water shortages. A pipeline reticulates water through the town area. Plans are well in hand for extension of the scheme to other Islands, and materials are arriving at Thursday Island to continue with the programme.

BUILDINGS.

Provision of suitable accommodation for teaching, medical requirements and stores on the Islands has continued unabated throughout the year, and it is expected that by the end of the present year all Islands will have been provided with the necessary buildings for these purposes.

Housing, similarly with most other places in Queensland remains a problem, but with a vigorous programme of building the shortage is steadily being overcome.

The difficulties associated with building throughout Torres Strait is not readily appreciated by most people when they are used to having material delivered by vehicle to the site. In Torres Strait it must be remembered that each stick of timber and every other item required to erect a building from concrete for foundations to roofing material, must be conveyed by vessel from Thursday Island then unloaded into cargo dinghies, taken ashore and unloaded by hand and carried to the site, the enormity of the undertaking in providing total accommodation for six thousand peoples who are increasing annually will be realised.

However, in spite of all the difficulties which have been met and overcome it is indeed gratifying to see, as a result of the untiring efforts of all those persons associated with the programme the back-lag being taken up, maybe slowly, but steadily and the general improvement each year.

EMPLOYMENT GENERALLY AND THE MARINE INDUSTRY.

Islanders still provide the major portion of the work force required in the area, particularly in the marine industry. The number so employed are:—

Privately owned vessels	491
Islander owned vessels	255

On the 5th March, 1958, 162 Ryukyuan, arrived at Thursday Island by the vessel "Eastern Queen" to undertake work in the pearl shelling industry. The introduction of these men did not result in the unemployment of any Islander, in spite of the fact that the trochus shell market collapsed in 1957.

There has been a gradual revival of the trochus market and this continues to provide employment for those Islanders who do not wish to follow the pearl shelling side of the industry.

The policy of Island Industries Board and the Department of Native Affairs in tutoring Islanders in carpentering, boat building and concrete work has continued throughout the year. The Islander is readily adaptable to this type of work and can rapidly take his place alongside his fellow worker on buildings, etc.

The Torres Strait fleet, manned and operated entirely by Islanders, has continued to maintain its standard of production and is again at sea gathering shell. The Agreement covering wages and conditions of these men is quoted:—

"DIVERS AGREEMENT 1958.

AGREEMENT made this day of One thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight between Owners of the vessel (hereinafter called the Owners) and (hereinafter called the Diver).

WHEREAS the vessel is now lying at anchor in the harbour of Thursday Island and the Diver is desirous of taking the vessel to the Queensland Pearl Shell and Beche-de-mer fishing grounds in Torres Strait and vicinity for the purpose of procuring Pearl Shell and other Marine Produce which may be desired by the Owners from time to time and supplying same to the Owners during the whole of the fishing season of 1958 ending on the 31st day of January, 1959, sign off of crews to be completed by that date.



Torres Strait Island Pearl Shell Diver.

Now it is HEREBY AGREED between the parties hereto as follows:—

(1) The Owners hereby grant permission to the Diver to take charge of the vessel and to proceed in it to the above fishing grounds.

(2) The Diver agrees not to take the vessel to any other fishing grounds without the Owners consent. The Owners agree not to send the vessel to any other ground without first obtaining the approval of the Shellers Appeal Board.

(3) The Diver agrees to supply all M.O.P. Shell and other Marine Produce obtained by the Diver and crew of the vessel during the fishing season of 1958 to the Owners and the same shall become and remain the property of the Owners immediately it is obtained by the Diver and crew and shall be delivered by them to the Owners or their authorised representatives at such place in Thursday Island and at such times as the Owners may direct, provided that no costs shall accrue against the Diver for transport or wharfage. Marine Produce includes all types of Shell, Pearls, Shell meat, dugong, and all kinds of edible fish, Beche-de-mer, turtle meat and shells.

(4) The Owners shall pay to the Diver for the supply of live M.O.P. Shell fished, clean, chipped, dry and ready for packing as per the Schedule set out below:—

	Up to 10 Tons.	Over 10 Tons and up to 16 Tons.	Over 16 Tons and up to 25 Tons.	Over 25 Tons.
	£	£	£	£
Sounds	300	350	400	420
D	240	255	280	295
E	150	160	180	200
EE	90	100	110	120
Marketable dead shell	20	20	20	20

In addition to the above lay the employer shall pay the Stern Diver a retainer of £20 per month.

In addition to the above lay and retainer the Owner hereby agrees to pay an amount of Two hundred pounds (£200) in the event of the vessel fishing 16 tons or over of M.O.P.

No deduction shall be made for loss of weight of shell subsequent to weighing.

(5) The Owner shall be entitled to deduct from the Divers Lay all advances made by the Owners to or on account of the Diver for rations, wages and bonuses or other payments to 2nd Diver, 3rd Diver, 4th Diver, Tenders, Engineer and Crew, and other payments or advances made against the Divers account.

(6) No liability for payment of Workers' Compensation and Pay Roll Tax shall accrue against the Diver.

(7) The Diver shall pay the cost of all fuel used over and above the amount of Three hundred pounds (£300) in the case of Luggers and Four hundred pounds (£400) in the case of Power Boats.

In the case of engines using power kerosene the Owners shall allow an amount of One hundred pounds (£100) above the rates set out in the fuel allowances above.

(8) The Diver agrees with the Owners that he will pay wages to the crew as follows:—

- Second Diver—£28 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Third Diver—£28 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Fourth Diver—£28 per month less £6 per month keep.
- First Tender—£26 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Second Tender—£26 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Third Tender—£26 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Fourth Tender—£26 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Engineer—£28 per month less £6 per month keep.
- Crew—£25 per month less £6 per month keep.

The allowance for "keep" shall be credited to the venture.

Divers liability for efficient white engineers—£6 per week. If during the current season a white man is displaced by an Islander, the Islander shall receive £6 per week as above.

No employee shall be required to work on Sunday except in performance of essential work. If clear water is available on a Sunday, then crew must work but they will be given a day off in lieu thereof during next dirty water period.

(9) The Diver agrees to conduct and manage the vessel in the following manner:—

(a) Crews at all times must be abroad their respective vessels unless given permit to leave by the Stern Tender and all breaches of this clause should be reported in writing to the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master.

(b) Any crew member who deserts his boat during the season or whose services are terminated through his own fault or because of misconduct, neglect of duty, breach of this Agreement, or at his own request shall not participate in bonus payments.

(c) The net earnings of the Stern Diver to be apportioned amongst himself and his crew in the following proportions:

Stern Diver	25 shares.
Other Divers	8 shares each.
First Tender	8 shares.
Other Tenders	4 shares each.
Engineer	8 shares.
Crew/Try Divers	2 shares each.
Crew	1 share each.

Provided that the net income of the Stern Diver shall not be reduced below £200.

Try Divers must be nominated and signed on as such.

Provided that when a Diver has a debit balance at the conclusion of the season such balance is to be written off and not carried forward against him.

(10) When vessels are being fitted out for work as Diving Boats, the Owner will provide her with Masts, Spars, Rigging, Engines and Compressors, Sails, Blocks, Ropes, Anchors, Chains, Cooking Utensils, Helmets and Corselets, Piping, Lifelines, Dinghy, approved medical kit, three sets Divers Clothing for a two diver boat and four sets of Divers Clothing for a three diver boat, and any other gear necessary to carry out working, any replacement due to any of the above wearing out (except Divers Clothing) to be supplied, but any replacements due to carelessness on the part of the Diver or his crew to be paid for by the Diver, provided that nothing in this section shall refer to the Divers responsibility for replacements or repairs or any work whatsoever required to the engines. In this case Engineers liability for damage shall be assessed by two approved Engineers.

(11) Any pearls won are the property of the Owner and shall be handed to him, but in the case of an Islander Diver, may be handed to the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, pearls must be sold and the proceeds shares as under:

- 50 per cent. Owner.
- 50 per cent. Stern Diver.

Pearls won by Islander Divers shall not be sold without the prior approval of the Deputy Director of Native Affairs.

(12) Nothing in this agreement is to be construed as conferring any title or ownership on the Diver in the vessel or any gear or plant thereon.

(13) The Diver agrees to work the vessel without any undue loss of time.

(14) This agreement may be terminated at any time at the Owners option without giving any reason therefor.

(15) At the termination of the agreement or sooner if the Diver leaves the vessel, the vessel may be slipped, cost of necessary repairs caused by ordinary wear and tear to be paid for by the Owner, repairs caused by carelessness to be paid for by the Diver.

If on slipping it is shown that no repairs caused by the Divers negligence are needed, the slipping costs shall be the Owners responsibility, provided that by arrangement with the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and Owners an amount of One hundred pounds (£100) shall be held in a special trust account by the Deputy Director of Native Affairs to meet slipping fees where applicable, and repairs through carelessness of the Diver. At the termination of the slipping all unused funds in the Trust Account shall be returned to the Diver. No claim shall be recognised after the vessel leaves Thursday Island.

Where the Diver is other than a Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal the Owner shall retain the slipping reserve. In the event of no charge being made by the Owner against the reserve within a period of six months from the termination of a previous season, all monies held shall be returned to the Diver.

In witness thereof the said Owners and Diver have hereto subscribed their names:

Signed by the said owners in
the presence of: }
Signed by the said Diver in
the presence of: }

Dated this day of 1958 at Thursday Island.

N.B.—*Regulation 74(1)*: Every employer shall pay all expenses of the employees conveyance from the place of residence to the place of employment and on completion of the period of Agreement the cost of his return to his place of residence together with an allowance for sustenance at the rate of Nine shillings per day while en route. The allowance for sustenance en route shall not apply to any employee travelling by steamer when board is provided for by the passage money.

Regulation 79. When an employee has been recruited from elsewhere than his home, he shall be returned on discharge to his home, unless otherwise approved by the Protector for the district in which the said employee resides."

HEALTH.

Regular medical surveys to the various Islands and Gulf Missions and continuous check by Medical Officers in Thursday Island are instrumental in maintaining a good health standard.

The only serious epidemic experienced was a severe type of influenza which raged throughout Torres Strait in March and April, but was controlled by the untiring efforts of the doctors, and the nursing Sisters throughout Torres Strait.

The campaign for the control of Tuberculosis continues and in the very near future it is expected that every person in Torres Strait will have been checked for this complaint. Those found to be suffering are brought to Thursday Island where they receive the necessary treatment through the General Hospital or Waiben Tuberculosis Hospital. Following on treatment which is generally fairly lengthy, they are discharged to Aplin Hostel where they are attuned to resumption of a normal life, sometimes after prolonged periods of complete bed rest.

That the system of treatment is succeeding is indicated by the very few cases who after treatment relapse and loss of life from this dread disease is practically unknown.

Equally with every other child in Queensland, the Torres Strait child has received at its own Island protection against Poliomyelitis by way

of Salk vaccination. This protection needed the services of a medical officer for a full month travelling for each of the injections necessary, sometimes under very trying weather conditions.

The arrangements reported in 1957 covering immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, etc., have continued.

Health Inspectors have continued their work of improvement in general hygiene, and combating hookworm and a steady upward progress is manifest in the area as a result.

WELFARE.

Clubs have continued to play a major part in the home life on the Islands, and following on a concerted effort by the School Welfare clubs, it is certain that during the ensuing year, arrangements will be finalized for the establishment of movie picture shows at the major inhabited Islands. There is no doubt the movie is a popular one throughout the Islands.

The Clubs have their own accounts under the control of their own elected Committees and some have healthy balances as indicated hereunder:—

Aplin Hostel Welfare Fund	5	12	6
Badu School Fund	657	5	8
Bamaga School Fund	109	19	6
Bamaga Show Account	415	14	2
Bamaga Welfare Fund	791	11	2
Boigu Welfare Club	78	2	0
Coconut Island Welfare Club	54	3	5
Cowal Creek Welfare Club	440	16	11
Cowal Creek School Fund	57	9	3
Darnley Island School Library	7	7	7
Darnley Island Welfare Fund	199	6	9
Southern Cross Club, Dowar	126	12	10
Dowar School Welfare Fund	5	12	1
Kubin School Welfare Fund	147	10	10
Mabuiag School Welfare Fund	419	14	7
Mabuiag Welfare Fund	15	15	1
Murray Island School Fund	237	14	3
Murray Island Welfare Club	94	10	6
Saibai Herald Club	59	3	2
Saibai School Fund	19	18	10
Saibai Welfare Fund	38	19	6
Yam Island Welfare Fund	10	7	1
Yorke Island Parents and Citizens Association	174	12	4
Western Island Comforts Fund	65	8	5
Eastern Island Comforts Fund	150	15	10
Torres Strait Circulating Library	1,111	16	1

APPRECIATION.

During the year Torres Strait people were honoured by two visits by their Minister, accompanied by the Under Secretary and the Director of Native Affairs. In appreciation of those visits the Councillors' Conference carried the following resolution:—

"This Conference places on record its deepest appreciation of the visit by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble, the Under Secretary, Mr. McCormack, the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary and the Private Secretary, Mr. Pluckrose.

The visit showed to the peoples of Torres Strait how interested the Minister and the Government is in the peoples of Torres Strait and gave to Councillors the opportunity of seeing and meeting the members of the party. All Councillors join in extending to the

Honourable the Minister a respectful invitation to visit their peoples at their home Islands where they can show their appreciation according to native customs.

Conference further assures the Honourable the Minister that as the Minister in charge of Native Affairs they have complete faith and trust in him to do what he believes is right and proper for the native peoples of Torres Strait."

BADU ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—P. R. Frith.)

SCHOOL.

Badu Island Primary School—the number of children now on roll is 127, comprising 63 boys and 64 girls. Children due for enrolment January, 1958, have been deferred until June half year to enable them to attend the new school which is now completed. The school during the past year has been held in various buildings in the village, owing to erection of new school building. Results, naturally have not been up to usual standard. The new School building will be occupied early June.

The native teaching staff has been increased by one, making a total of seven teachers.

It is expected that the new school will be officially opened in late May. It is an excellent building of 3,600 square feet, lined and ceiled and painted exterior and interior.

The new dual desks and chairs which have been installed are a great improvement and much appreciated by the pupils.

MARINE INDUSTRY.

Once again the year which finished in January shows the excellent work and the industriousness of the men of Badu. The mother of pearl shell catches were again high and exceeded previous years. There are seven boats of the Director of Native Affairs' fleet on Badu manned by local men. All boats remained continuously at work during the clear water, coming only to their home station during dirty water to re-fuel, and obtain stores, water and wood.

All able-bodied men are working in the industry, either on Director of Native Affairs' boats or those owned by the Master Pearl-ers' Association.

Special mention and appreciation is expressed to the Nona Brothers who are Captains of the Director of Native Affairs' luggers.

BUILDINGS.

Besides the completion of the school, two cottages were erected and completed and the stumps erected for a further six cottages. The work of the native carpenters and painters employed by the Director of Native Affairs is excellent and is all that could be desired. These men are employed under the Award rates.

Three bridges were demolished and new ones built on the same site. Two were constructed of blood-wood plates and decking and the third was built of concrete. This work was essential as the truck was unable to proceed from village to anchorage.

The Badu water scheme has been commenced and the three sites chosen show an ample supply of water, sufficient for the needs of all the people. Concrete cylinders have been sunk on the three sites.

HEALTH.

Children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years received two injections of Salk Vaccine. Doctors P. R. Patrick and V. O'Hara visited the Island for this purpose on the 23rd July, 1957, and 7th September, 1957, respectively.

An outbreak of influenza occurred during September, 1957, and was followed by an epidemic of a severe type of gastro-enteritis in October. I deeply regret to report that the latter infection caused the death of two Badu and two Kubin babies.

Another epidemic of influenza broke out in the latter part of February, 1958, and continued into April. This epidemic was complicated by severe vomiting and diarrhoea, amongst the babies and toddlers, but fortunately all made a good recovery.

One death occurred in the village, a male aged 26 years through neglect on the part of the relatives to seek medical attention. Death was caused through broncho-pneumonia.

One case of malaria was referred to Thursday Island for investigation. Five abdominal cases and two probable fractures referred to Thursday Island also.

The usual assortment of accidents were attended to, A.T.S. being necessary in some cases. Several cases of conjunctivitis have been continually cropping up, several acute infections have been attended to in the past two months.

This has been a very difficult year from the health angle.

A Baby Clinic was instituted in early March and whilst a few families are not availing themselves of the benefit of this weekly weighing and examination the results are gratifying from those who are acting on advice given regarding feeding, etc.

Triple-antigen is being given at intervals ensuring a continuity of protection to all babies.

In conclusion my sincere thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, the Government Medical Officer, the Radio Officer and particularly to the Master of the "Gemla" for the ready help and co-operation at all times.

DARNLEY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—O. G. Smart.)

Enrolment—

Boys	..	..	..	..	..	49
Girls	..	..	..	..	..	56
Total	..	..	..	..	..	105

Average Daily Attendance—96.
Grades.—Preparatory to Seventh.

PROGRESS.

Progress has been retarded by staff changes which materially affected the lower grades. There has been, however, a very pleasing improvement recently in the standard of constructive English—compositions, letters, etc.

Some compositions in recent testing, although short, reached quite a high standard of English. The previous rate of progress in mechanical work has not, however, been maintained. This is due in some measure to the inexperience of new members of the staff at least four of whom have joined the staff after leaving school during the previous twelve months.

To remedy this a special evening class has been commenced on Tuesday and Thursday evenings which is attended by some of the top grade pupils in addition to the Junior teachers.

STANDARDS.

Although standards of mechanical work have dropped for reasons outlined in progress report they may be considered to be fairly satisfactory. The standard of spoken and written English continues to improve.

STAFFING.

The School is staffed by three male and three female teachers. A loss was felt when two female members of the staff resigned for domestic reasons as both had been teaching for a number of years and as lower-grade teachers were hard to replace. The new members are settling down, however, and subject to no further changes, progress should again improve.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Games and physical exercises are very popular and eagerly awaited lessons. Great keenness has been shown for table tennis recently introduced to the senior pupils and a successful competition was held at the school break-up at Christmas, 1957. Basket ball is played enthusiastically by the senior girls.

ACTIVITIES.

That long awaited event the "New School Opening" went off without a hitch on 15th November, 1957. The actual turning of the key was performed by Joseph Peter, the oldest "old boy" at present on the Island. The school children, nearly all of them in uniform, then entered followed by parents and people for a short service of blessing and dedication conducted by Rev. Seriba Sagigi. Games, feasting and a bazaar followed, the day concluding with a very successful concert by the pupils. The concert included a "Pageant of Progress" depicting the history of Darnley from the days of the head hunters to the days of a visionary future.

The morning of Opening Day was filled by an athletic sports meeting organised by the school staff. Prizes from 1s. to 4s. in value were given to successful competitors. Needless to say all competitors were successful.

A bazaar was again held in connection with the Christmas break and a Nativity play was presented by the senior pupils.

The carol singing party again visited all villages and some eleven pounds was raised for the Church.

WELFARE.

The School Welfare Committee has been very active and the new radiogram and strip projector were installed in time for the Opening

Day. In addition a very substantial credit balance remains in the pass book. The outlook for the future is, therefore, very pleasant.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Most able-bodied men have been employed in the trochus or pearl fishing industry either on luggers or working their own dinghies.

Gardens have been well cultivated and excellent crops of watermelons, sweet potatoes, corn, sugar cane, bananas and papaws have been gathered.

Pigs and poultry are raised by nearly all families for their own consumption and to provide for various feasting throughout the year.

Good supplies of fish and turtle supply a welcome addition to the diet.

The Loza Club, a family organisation, have presented several entertaining "Hula" shows to the public.

BUILDINGS.

The new school building was completed in July and four cottages await just the flooring for completion. The Cottage Hospital was given a face lift by removing iron outside walls and replacing with fibrolite. This has made it a much cooler place to work in and of course to be in as a patient.

New drains were constructed at the teachers' residence and the laundry attached thereto. Extensive repairs have been made to the bridges on the Island.

HEALTH.

The general health of the Island people has been good. Although two cases of malaria in Darnley people were reported from Thursday Island no case has occurred on the Island itself. On receipt of the report preventative measures were intensified and regular sprayings increased. The Dental Survey was completed early in August and although some people were reluctant to receive treatment, the results were in the main satisfactory. The M.A.P. Nurses are to be congratulated on the way they carry out their duties.

GENERAL.

The visit of the Deputy Director, Mr. P. J. Killoran, was a real tonic to the people and all concerned co-operated in giving him a great welcome. The visit of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble to Torres Strait is now being eagerly discussed. Such visits do much to arouse in the people an interest in their own and the Island's welfare.

During the visit of Mr. Killoran plans were discussed for the installation of a water supply scheme which would be of great value to the Island.

THANKS.

Thanks are due to all those people on Thursday Island who are always so ready with advice and practical help, to the Doctors and staff of the Hospitals there, the Masters and crews of the supply vessels, lugger owners who are ready to supply vessels so quickly in emergencies and with special mention the Base Radio Officers for the cheerful and friendly discharge of their many onerous duties.

MABUIAG ISLAND SCHOOL.
(Government Teacher—B. J. McGuire.)

EDUCATION.

Enrolment.—The enrolment for the year varied from 67 to 80 with a mean quarterly enrolment of 73.25.

Attendance.—The average daily attendance for the year was 70.05. This is an increase of 19.7 per cent. on last year's attendance. It is hoped to maintain this figure this year.

Conduct.—Conduct generally has been satisfactory throughout the year and the children are obedient and diligent.

Staff.—There are six native assistants on the staff. All have applied themselves fairly satisfactorily to their duties.

Progress.—There has been an appreciable improvement in the standard of English in the Preparatory Grades. This has resulted from a varied approach to development of a rudimentary spoken vocabulary. It must be borne in mind that on commencing school the children have no English vocabulary. The infant teachers are to be complimented on their perseverance in insisting that English is spoken whenever practicable.

The School is graded from Preparatory to Grade 7. Two girls who completed Grade 6 last year have enrolled for this year and are attempting Grade 7 work. It can now be fairly claimed that the Queensland Syllabus is covered completely up to Grade 4. From then on the Syllabus is modified in minor details. It is not given the depth of treatment as would apply in southern Schools. This will follow as the standard of English improves. As the Reading Book plays such an important part in the development of the child's English it is imperative that the most suitable type of Reader be used. In this regard, unfortunately the standard Queensland reader is not of the greatest assistance.

ISLAND GENERAL.

Agriculture and Food Growing Developments.—Large areas have been planted with Sweet Potatoes and Cassava. The harvest promises to be plentiful and with the continued rains it is hoped that late plantings will mature. Paw-paw, pineapple, and yams are also producing well as are the bananas.

House Building.—Three of the less presentable homes were pulled down during the year and rebuilt. Another home was also built. Most of the homes and cottages are now of a fair standard and improvements may be expected during the year.

Health.—Mr. O'Shea, Health Inspector, visited the Island in June, and carried out a total hookworm inspection of the population. There was a very low incidence of the disease and the people concerned were treated by Mr. O'Shea. In addition to this campaign the Health Inspector also advised of general health matters, hygiene, and sanitation. His visit was of great value and as a result some outstanding health aspects have been introduced.

Doctors Patrick and O'Hara visited the Island to administer the first two Anti-Polio injections to all children up to the age of 15 years.

All pre-School children were given Triple-Antigen courses by the Nurse-in-Charge against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus.

The general health of the population is very satisfactory. Illnesses such as met with in any community were encountered. Epidemics of conjunctivitis, influenza and a type of school sore were handled but thanks to the rapid means of communication available no cases became critical though anti-biotics were prescribed for any chronic sufferers.

Numerous dental patients were sent to Thursday Island during the year. However, as this system is not completely satisfactory, involving as it does much expense and loss of school time, it is hoped that a Dentist will be available soon to visit the Island to effect fillings particularly.

"In Memoriam."—The passing of Charlotte Hankin on the 12th September was a sad occasion for Mabuia. Charlotte at the age of 69 years was a most valued and respected member of the community. She was a foundation member of the Mothers' Union and had held other honorary positions. Islanders and Europeans mourned her passing. My wife and I were deeply saddened by it as Charlotte has been a true friend and her helpful advice in our early years here will always be remembered. It is fitting that the Mothers' Union has honoured her memory by the Charlotte Hankin Memorial Hall.

Utilities.—Construction of a 20,000 gallon reservoir has been completed and connecting pipes laid for a water scheme. The installation of the pumping unit which will supply water to the reservoir for reticulation will shortly be effected. This water system will fulfil a much needed want. It is hoped that surplus water will be available for home irrigation. It is too early to estimate the capacity of the 3 wells sunk but indications are that there will be a plentiful supply until September when it will be necessary to deepen the wells. Sincere thanks are given to the Department for their assistance and a hearty 'thank you' to Mr. Killoran, Mr. McKenna and assistants. The Water System will undoubtedly prove of tremendous value to the island.

Conclusion.—I wish to express my thanks to the many Officers of the Department, Island Industries Board, Hospitals' Board, local administration and staff for their cheerful assistance and advice throughout the year.

YORKE ISLAND SCHOOL.
(Government Teacher—F. J. Langston).

		SCHOOL.					
On Roll—							
Boys	22
Girls	18
							—
Total	40
							—

The School is divided into six grades for 1958, viz., 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7. One girl who was in Grade VIII in 1957 and returned to School this year is now employed as a Teacher. This additional teacher has eased the burden on the Government Teacher considerably and means that each of the four Island teachers has one class and the Government Teacher has two instead of three or four as previously. All subjects throughout the School are quite sound with the exception of written and spoken English. Formal grammar is very good but application is very weak as correct English is used only at school. During the year the Island Teachers have performed their duties well.

During 1957 a concert was held which netted over £20 for the Parents and Citizens Association. The first School Bazaar held in conjunction with August 23rd celebrations was an outstanding success and raised £140 for school welfare. A hand duplicator has been purchased and is proving of great value to the School and Island. A typewriter to be used in conjunction with the duplicator and also for use by senior pupils has been ordered and due to arrive this month. The Committee also purchased £25 worth of cane supplies and boys from 10 years upwards are making cane trays as handwork. The girls are receiving instruction from Mrs. Langston in plastic flower making and needlework. Articles made at these classes are to be sold at the School Bazaar to cover cost of materials.

HEALTH.

The general health of the Island is excellent. During the year we had visits from Drs. Patrick and O'Hara to conduct immunisation against poliomyelitis. All children under five years of age have been immunised with Triple Antigen and as babies reach the age of six months they are being immunised. This campaign has shown excellent results as during the twelve months no child has shown any signs of developing whooping cough.

Two deaths occurred on the Island during the year. An old age pensioner passed away in her sleep from heart failure and Thomas Johnson,

a young married man died from loss of blood following shark bite. No births were recorded on the Island during the twelve months. Our thanks go to the Government Medical Officer and his staff and Director of Native Affairs radio officers for their assistance at all times with serious medical cases.

ISLAND AFFAIRS.

The Deputy Director of Native Affairs (Mr. Killoran) visited the Island early in the year. His visit was greatly appreciated by the people as he was able to hear and discuss Island and personal problems first hand and also clarify many points with regards the entry of the Okinawans to the Pearling Industry. The visit of the Minister (Dr. Noble) is eagerly awaited.

Boats working pearl shell and trochus from here last season did quite well and high hopes are held for this year when three luggers and one cutter manned entirely by Islanders are operating.

The prolonged dry season caused the gardens to be less productive than in other seasons. Beetles again attacked melon and cucumber vines and inflicted heavy losses. Corn seed was obtained from Bamaga, for which we thank Mr. Harris, and the corn grown this year was far superior to that grown here for many years. Sweet potatoes and Cassava are flourishing.

The Island and School have combined resources to purchase a movie projector for the Island and everyone is anxiously waiting news of its purchase and time of arrival. It is hoped that in addition to normal film screenings, educational, religious and health films will be screened.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Director, Deputy Director and his staff, Island Industries Board and staff, Government Medical Officer and staff, Radio Officers and others, who have given this Island valuable assistance and thoughtful consideration during the year.

ACCOUNTS TO 31st MARCH, 1958.

—	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Balance 1-4-57.		Balance 31-3-58.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions	6,263	443,344	3 7	418,323	16 8	245,934	11 10	126,385	2 7
				Investments ..				144,569	16 2
								£270,954	18 9

Section.	Number of Accounts 31-3-57.	Number of Accounts 31-3-58.	Balance 31-3-57.		Balance 31-3-58.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Islands	4,317	4,282	139,218	14 5	141,056	15 3
Missions	715	725	59,542	12 1	79,059	2 1
Island Funds	105	111	34,631	19 0	37,420	1 4
Child Endowment	1,137	1,145	12,541	6 4	13,419	0 1
	6,274	6,263	£245,934	11 10	£270,954	18 9

NORTHERN PENINSULA RESERVE.
BAMAGA AND COWAL CREEK.
(Superintendent—Mr. A. F. Hamilton.)

POPULATION.

Population—

Bamaga	380
Cowal Creek	225
Red Island Point	75
	680

Deaths—

Bamaga	1
----------------	---

Schools—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Bamaga	43	38	81
Cowal Creek	19	23	42
Red Island Point	15	12	27
			150

SCHOOL.

Progress generally is satisfactory although pupils in Grades 5 and 6 find the work difficult, the weakest subject being English.

A radiogram and educational records were purchased during the year and they have been a great help both for lessons and for folk dancing.

School gardens were made and irrigation was installed. A good market exists for the sale of produce therefrom, the proceeds being added to the School funds. A drive was made by the children to cut and bundle firewood for sale on Thursday Island. The money received from this project was used to provide a Christmas tree.

A concert and social function was held to provide funds for a breaking up party. A total of £140 was netted.

A welcome was accorded the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble, on his visit to Bamaga, by the pupils. The School was decorated for the occasion, a concert also being held in the evening.

The School year ended with the enactment of the Nativity play by the pupils after which a Christmas tree, with presents for all children was given, followed by a supper and fireworks display. Many of the toys and presents were made by the senior pupils.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

Totals.	Bamaga.	Cowal Creek.	Red Island Point.
Inpatients	211	..	..
Outpatients	11,733	13,716	1,219
Sent forward Medical check	31	60 (to Bamaga)	6 (to Bamaga)
Sent forward X-ray, etc.	222 (three areas)		
Sent forward dental treatment	29 (three areas)		

October, 1957 saw an outbreak of Gastroenteritis here. In all 19 cases were admitted to Bamaga Hospital with this. All cases treated as per instructions of Government Medical

p

Officer at Thursday Island with good results. None needed to be sent to Thursday Island Hospital for further treatment. A big factor in this was the fact that the mothers of sick children were very prompt in bringing them for treatment.

November, 1957.—A mild outbreak of Chicken Pox at Red Island Point and Bamaga. 16 cases in all were placed in Hospital, but all were mild cases and quickly responded to treatment.

March and April, 1958.—A severe outbreak of influenza at Bamaga, Red Island Point and Cowal Creek. The severe cases were nursed in Hospital and the milder cases in their homes, as per instructions of Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island Hospital.

Mass Hookworm, treatment was carried out in October-November. This treatment is carried out at six monthly intervals.

A Feeding Centre for indigents and ex Tuberculosis patients was opened at Cowal Creek on 21st October, 1957. This centre provides three meals daily for all these people. A list of suitable foods was supplied by Dr. Hales and a big effort is made to keep meals in these limits. The people supplied at this centre help out by doing light duties around the centre. Weekly inspection of premises and of the meals is carried out. Adults and children are showing apparent benefit of this treatment.

Deaths—One death—George Porcupine, an old man who had previously had a stroke.

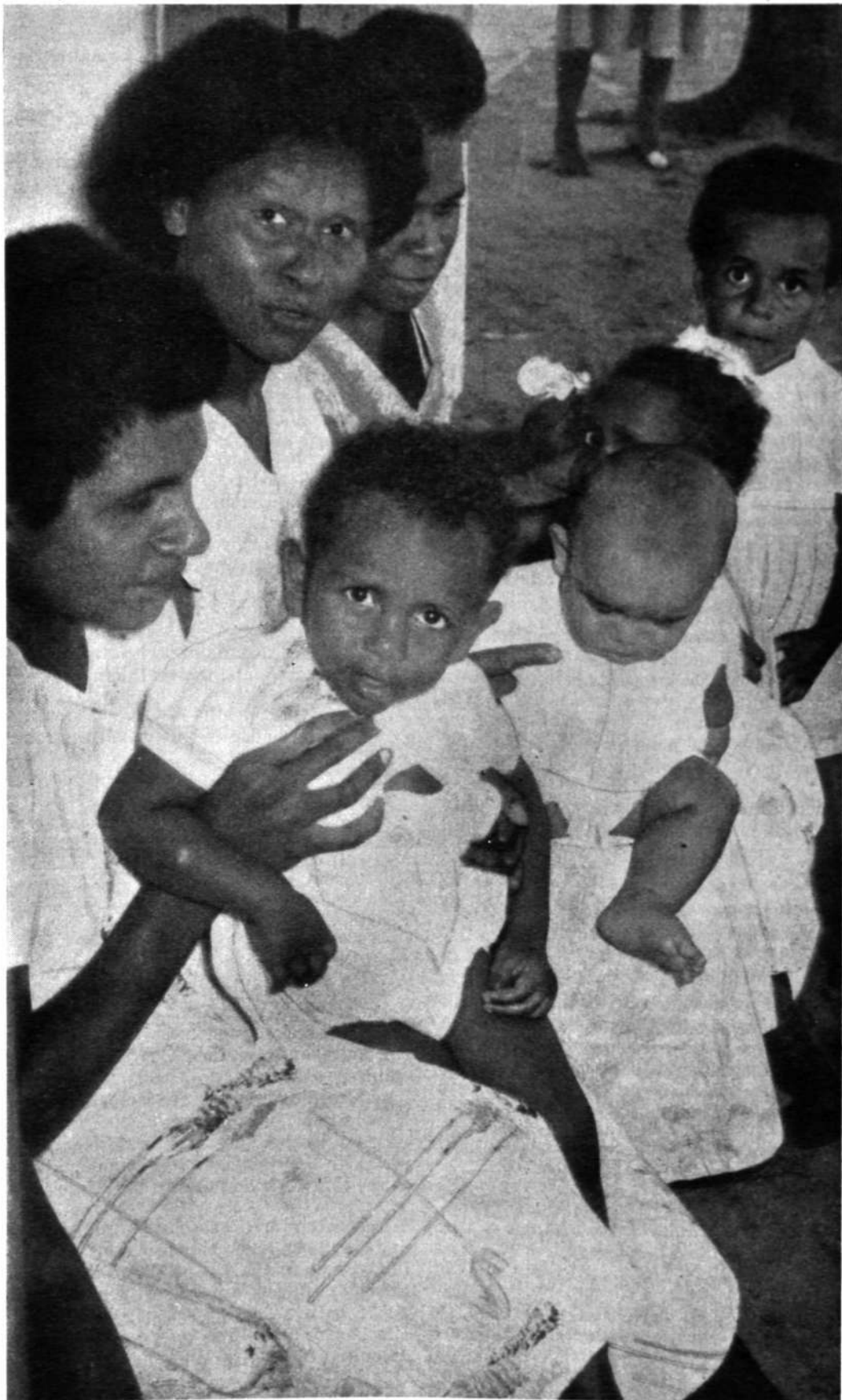
Child Welfare Clinic Statistics (April, 1958).—

Bamaga—					
Babies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5
Toddlers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	36
Cowal Creek—					
Babies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4
Toddlers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	23
Red Island Point—					
Babies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Toddlers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7

All clinic children weighed and inspected weekly. This in no small way helps to keep under control any sickness they might contract. Pentavite and Irradol A is given daily to all children at the three centres. Any child who is not gaining weight satisfactorily is placed in Hospital to check on condition. For the most part the mothers are very keen to care properly for their children but a constant check is kept to see that they do not slip back into lazy ways.

School children are checked daily at School, and any who show signs of illness are immediately sent to the Hospital for inspection. All School children are taken weekly for a salt water bath. This appears to have a beneficial effect on the children by keeping down a large amount of the sores they are prey to.

All children were given injections of Triple-Antigen during the year. The older children received boosters and the younger ones were given their full course on reaching six months. The Anti-Poliomyelitis injections were commenced during the year. All children have now two of their three injections of same.



Mothers with children. Cowal Creek, Cape York Peninsula.

Staff at Medical Aid Post, Bamaga—

Peseka Saganakas—Head Nurse.
Rosina Tabuai—2nd Nurse.
Daisy Koraba—3rd Nurse.
Edith Saganakas—Cook—Laundress.

Staff at Medical Aid Post, Cowal Creek—

Petta Bowie—Head Nurse.
Jeanon Charlie—2nd Nurse.

Staff at Medical Aid Post, Red Island Point—

Biawa Atu.

SETTLEMENT.

An extensive programme of new and maintenance work has been carried out with a relatively small labour force of six men.

A cement tank of 22,000 gallons capacity was constructed at Cowal Creek and water has been reticulated to all houses in the village. A pump unit maintains the tank supply from an adjacent well.

A sawdust conveyor was made and installed at the mill. This eliminates previous stoppage time for removal of sawdust and has proved reasonably successful though not ideal.

Irrigation and water reticulation to the farm and Bamaga village was maintained throughout the year at a satisfactory level. An Islander was trained to maintain the pumps, equipment and drive units and he has proved quite satisfactory in this role. Irrigation hours for the season were approximately 1,268 hours; fuel consumed about 1,000 gallons. Some permanent main and control units were installed under the cultivation area.

A subsidiary breakdown saw is being installed at the mill. It should be ready for a trial run by mid-May.

Road maintenance has been slowed down because of shortage of staff and also the wet conditions prevailing. The main roads to Red Island Point is in excellent order.

All boats have been attended to day and night without delay. The jetty at Red Island Point is in bad repair and construction has been started. It has to be fully redecked and partly rebeamed. This is an extensive project and the wharf is over 400 feet long and about 16 feet average width.

AGRICULTURE.

The wet season has been rather extended this year and plantings have been delayed unduly. However, leeway is being made up as rapidly as possible on small crops. Production is only fair for the year.

Maize production for pig feed averages 10 bags per acre and sugar cane, type 00301, is estimated to cut over 20 tons per acre.

A breeding herd of goats was replaced on Red Island Point but it has been reduced to two only by the destruction of the remainder by lugger crews operating in the vicinity.

Thirty-eight calves have been branded. All beef slaughtered has been disposed of in the local stores, a quantity being allocated to the feeding centre.

Pasture improvement has progressed. Ninety acres have been covered with introduced grasses and legumes. An area of 18 acres was brought

under cultivation with Sorghum and Sudan grass. This proved of great value as fodder after the early fires a shortage of grazing was imminent.

Land clearing has been carried out as required.

Fencing of a 1,500 acre breeding paddock is under way with about two miles of fencing completed.

In the piggery selection of stock is proceeding. The original 3 sows purchased at Palm Creek have now produced 7 breeding gilts or sows. The litter average has been 6 marketed pigs. Growth rate has been in excess of 100 lb. dressed weight at six months.

BUILDING.

A new Hospital of 20 beds is now well under construction and should be finished by early June.

It is hoped that after the Hospital is completed work can be restarted on village housing again, all timber and labour now being utilised on the major construction. Last year only 9 houses were completed and 2 partly finished. Posts are ready for 17 more.

The sawmill has been enlarged by 85 feet longer and 36 feet wider to accommodate the new breakdown saw.

SAWMILL.

As there has not been a sawmiller in charge from May, 1957, until the 11th April, 1958, production figures are down for the year.

Although logging has been difficult due to the wet season a reasonable number of logs were again available for the new miller to start sawing. Since taking over sufficient timber has been cut to supply the immediate demand as required. A stock rack is accumulating. The sizes supplied range from fruit case shooks to wharf decking.

The planer machine is being reconditioned in order to make up flooring.

SOMERSET.

The track to Somerset has been reconditioned and a new section made to remove one bad gradient.

The upper coconut plantation is in fair order. A quantity of nuts from this area has been brought to Bamaga for planting.

The lower plantation is not economically worth rejuvenating.

ANNUAL REPORT—RADIO SERVICE.
(Engineer-Operator—J. McKenna.)
(Assistant—I. Mullins.)

Overall improvements in medical and other services and the indication of further improvements highlight the fact that the radio communication must be a vital link.

The ultimate aim is one hundred per cent. effective 24 hour service. This aim is not obtainable owing to restrictions placed by the P.M.G. on outstation transmitter power. However, during the daylight hours one hundred per cent. communication is obtainable and during night hours a reduction of up to fifty per cent. must be accepted.

Most equipment has now been in service for ten years, in some cases under very adverse conditions. Maintenance work has thus increased and reliability suffered.

It is envisaged that all the original equipment will have to be replaced over the next five years and to effect this an endeavour is being made to replace 3 units each year with modern equipment. The new equipment will include facilities for secrecy of transmissions and improved emergency calling facilities, apart from vastly improved signals. A new unit installed at Aurukun Mission for test purposes has proved most successful.

RESUME OF WORK.

All stations have been visited during the year at least once for maintenance purposes.

INSTALLATIONS.

Sue Island.—A new installation with wind-charger and masts.

Dauan Island.—New installation complete.

Murray Island.—Equipment reinstalled in new location.

Stephen Island.—Installation of higher powered equipment with battery charging facilities in new location.

Naghir Island.—Reinstallation in new location.

Aurukun Mission.—Installation of new type equipment with masts and aerials.

Base Station.—Construction and installation of new emergency equipment. Construction of complete control equipment to handle new transmitter and remote receivers. Three tele-radio units have been constructed in the workshop for use at Dauan Island and as replacements at outstations while equipment is under repair.

TRAFFIC ANALYSES—1957-58.

Total outward messages	15,350
Total inward messages	14,200
Total radio medicals	1,020
Total cases treated by radio	340
Daily average of words	5,100

BUILDING PROGRAMME—THURSDAY ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT, ISLANDS AND PENINSULA. (Foreman Carpenter, Mr. E. Niblett.)

Progress during the past year has been extensive in all spheres and again splendid work has been carried out by island tradesmen. The following is indicative of progress:—

Badu Island.—Completion of new school lining, sheeting, ceiling and painting. Erection of further cottages. Setting of concrete blocks in various parts of village. Repairs to Government Teacher's Quarters. Hospital buildings general maintenance. Stoves, cabinets, etc.

Murray Island.—Erection of four cottages of Radio Building. Repairs to Government Teacher's Quarters. General maintenance.

Darnley Island.—Completion of new school outbuildings. Erection of four cottages. Repairs and improvements Government Teacher's Quarters. Repairs and improvements Hospital M.A.P.

Yam Island.—House in course of erection. Repairs general maintenance school M.A.P. Supply of materials Government Teacher's Quarters. M.A.P. and school buildings.

Coconut Island.—Supply materials, paint etc. general maintenance school M.A.P. branch store and cottages.

Yorke Island.—Supply of materials, improvements, additions to Government Teacher's Quarters. Repairs school M.A.P. outbuildings. General maintenance, guttering, downpipe, stove piping.

Stephen Island.—Supply of materials, paint etc. school M.A.P. Government Teacher's residence, general maintenance. Completion of school, cottages etc.

Mabuiag Island.—Special maintenance Government Teacher's residence, cottages etc. Supply of necessary materials, water supply. Completion of tank and water supply.

Kubin Village.—Erection of M.A.P. Repairs school roofing, painting, etc. Supply necessary materials.

Saibai Island.—Erection and completion new school building and outbuildings. Repairs Government Teacher's residence. Repairs store buildings. Repairs, replacements Radio Building.

Dauan Island.—Supply paint, materials general maintenance school, Government Teacher's residence. E. C. Cabinets.

Boigu Island.—Completion school buildings, cottages, supply of materials general maintenance.

Bamaga Settlement.—Completion single men's dormitories. Setting of blocks for four further dormitories. Erection of four cottages continuation village. Repairs, painting, sheeting, lining etc. of staff quarters and hospital. Erection of new hospital with outbuildings. Toilets, abultion and laundry blocks, septic installations and water connections. Supply materials housing, etc.

Cowal Creek.—Completion fourteen cottages. Blocks set for further six cottages. General maintenance carried out school M.A.P., cottages Branch Store. Paint, iron, etc. supplied.

Red Island Point.—Blocks set for eight cottages, supply for water under way. Materials supplied general repairs.

Tamwoy Suburb, Thursday Island.—Continuation erection of cottages Tamwoy. Connection water supply. Area completely fenced, each block sub-fenced. "K" wire netting. Paint supplied joinery, roofing, etc. Twelve sets blocks concrete ready for fencing.

Thursday Island.—Staff Quarters, General:—General maintenance all Departmental buildings. Painting, plumbing repairs. Construction water tanks, 1,000-1,500 gallons rain water. Extension garage workshop. Firewood, power saw bench stands, etc. Construction ships' tanks (lugger). Trochus boilers exhaust coolings to specifications. Pre-cutting of buildings M.A.P., Engine housing, cottages carried out

for transport various islands. Repairs to truck bodies, etc. Packing, crating furniture—repair stores. Fencing of local areas. Making E.C. cabinets, repairs furniture. Intake stacking, storing building materials. Forwarding same various islands. Repairs buildings C.S.I.R.O. Redecking tank stands. Building 2 x 2,000 gallon tank. Installation same. Weatherproofing roofs residence, laboratory and boatshed, guttering, etc., doors external buildings.

Aplin Hostel.—General repairs all buildings. Maintenance, erection tank stand 1,500-gallon (water) supply tank. External painting mess hall. Boiler recess and reticulation. Concreting drains, maintenance septic systems. Replacement doors various buildings.

Hospital Board, Thursday Island.—Enclosing rear entrance Home 3, protective purposes.

Island Industries Board.—Completion Staff Quarters, water reticulation. Septic systems. Inspection, maintenance all Board properties. Shelving display sections at bulk store, installation louvres, etc. Connection hygiene vents E.C.'s. Completion shipwright's quarters. Completion erection 9 ft. fence Shell store area. Repairs various island stores, Branch Manager's quarters. Inspections termite and treatment if necessary. Thorough check maintained on all Board properties.

Aitkenvale, Townsville.—A 1,600-foot residence was erected and completed, including septic and water installations, completely painted outside and in. Seven outbuildings, lavatories, ablutions and laundries were completed. Compressor case and coke room. Alterations, additions to existing mess hall. Existing well cleaned out and concrete poured to 16 foot x 6 inch walls. Repairs to windmill. Water reticulation to all buildings completed. Drainage (storm water) carried out. Recess serving store room, shelving added to existing building. Forms made for mess hall. Office, laundry, shower room, garage, etc., built under manager's house. Seven hundred feet chain wire fencing erected round house with cyclone single-double gates. Water reticulation from tank and connections Townsville City supply.

Maintenance, General.—A rigid control is kept on all departmental properties resulting in buildings requiring minimum attention.

Materials.—Regular supplies have enabled us to continue in normal programme of expansion.

The performance of artisans has been on the whole excellent. The quality of work in many instances is very gratifying.

PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR."

(Master—Captain A. Mellor, M.I.N.)
(Engineer—Mr. A. E. Brown.)

General.—As in previous years, the vessel has been busily engaged in regular routine visits to the islands of the Torres Strait. The principal reason for the voyages are:—

- (a) To carry foodstuffs in the I.I.B. branch stores.
- (b) Island passengers, outwards and inwards.

(c) Building materials for D.N.A. island building projects.

(d) Medical, dental and administrative officers.

(e) Urgent medical mercy runs.

(f) Trochus shell.

(g) Medical stores, mail and fresh food for Government teachers.

Staff and Crew.—The vessel is manned by two white officers and a crew of 15 Islanders. The crew do a first class job. There have been no injuries to crew, and their health has generally been good.

Life Saving Equipment.—

Boats:—

- 1 x 17-ft. Lifeboat.
- 2 x 14-ft. skiffs.
- 1 x 16-ft. Motor Boat.
- 2 Carley floata.
- 55 life-jackets.
- 8 "Kisbie" Lifebuoys.
- Reg. supply of rockets, flares, etc.

All this equipment is surveyed by an officer from the Harbours and Marine Dept. and replacements (or additions) made as recommended.

Accommodation.—Apart from the master's and engineer's cabin, there is cabin accommodation for five, "shake-down" stretcher can be provided for four persons. During inter-island voyages, forty (40) Islanders can be carried as deck-passengers. These passengers carry their own mats, blankets, etc., and are supplied with free meals. Most Islanders prefer sleeping ashore when the vessel is at anchor thus greatly increasing sleeping space.

Radio/Signal Gear.—The ship is fitted with A.W.A. 4A Radio Trans-receiver, which is giving good service. Also is a second A.W.A. 3BZ Receiver, a necessity for inter-ship communication in an emergency, which is not giving satisfactory service.

The ship carries an "Aldis" signalling lamp, also the complete set of International flags.

Passengers.—Both on the "outwards" and "inwards" Island voyages approx. 40 adult Islanders are carried. Mostly Hospital cases or for medical check-up. These numbers are reduced at the Master's discretion, in case of bad weather or carrying of deck cargo.

Medical and dental survey parties have been taken to all Islands. Auditors, Radio Officers, Matron and Sisters from T.I. base Hospital have done the round voyages.

The Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. H. W. Noble M.B., B.S., M.L.A., Mr. McCormack, Under Secretary, Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, and Mr. Pluckrose, Private Secretary, were official passengers during the Ministerial visit to Cape York Mission Stations and Thursday Island during 1957.

Arrangements are in hand to convey the Flying Doctor survey party on a 21-day visit to all Islands. They are due to depart Thursday Island on 6th June.

Repairs and Slipping.—The vessel was slipped on the South Seas Enterprises Ltd. Slipway on 10th April, for underwater cleaning and painting, replacing some copper sheets and repairs to skeg and rudder. The slipping arrangements, and repairs, were carried out very satisfactorily, with a "clean bottom" the ship averaged over 8½ knots, whilst prior to slipping our speed was slightly under 7 knots.

Annual Mileage.—

Torres Strait	3,500
North Queensland Waters	1,600
Gulf Missions	180
Total	5,280

Passengers.—

Islanders	1,015
Mainlanders	130
Doctors, Sisters, Dental Offrs.	16
Government Officials	28
Approved white passengers	26
Total	1,215

Cargo Carried.—

	Tons.
Island Industries Board	850
D.D.N.A. Stores	200
Dressed Timber ex-Bamaga	120
Firewood ex-Bamaga	200
Islanders Goods and Chattels	25
Private Authorised	25
Medical Stores, etc.	10
Miscellaneous	10
Total	1,440

APPENDIX 10.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Manager—Mr. P. J. Killoran).

CONSTITUTION.

The Island Industries Board is a Corporation established under "The Torres Strait Islanders' Acts, 1939 to 1946" for the development of trade, assistance in industry and the advancement of the material welfare of the Torres Strait Island people. The Board comprises:—

Chairman:—Mr. P. J. Killoran.

Members:—

Mr. C. V. Daly to 26th March, 1958.

Mr. C. L. Waller from 27th March, 1958.

Mr. A. G. F. Kirk.

Secretary and Accountant:—Mr. P. P. Hanley.

Mr. C. V. Daly relinquished his appointment to the Board when proceeding on transfer to Thursday Island and the Board wishes to place on record his services to the Board.

The Board's functions as set out in the Schedule to the Act, give the Board authority to:—

1. Carry on the business, trade, or occupation, as the case may be, of banker, blacksmith, builder, carpenter, commission agent, common carrier (whether by land or water), dealer (wholesale or retail), engineer, exporter, factor, farmer, fisherman (including fishing for pearl shell, trochus shell, and beche-de-mer), forwarding agent, freight contractor, general merchant, grazier, importer, iron worker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mineowner, money lender, plumber, shipping agent, ship's

chandler, shipbroker, shipbuilder, shipowner, shopkeeper, stevedore, storekeeper, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or any other trade or business incidental or ancillary to any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, of which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade or occupation.

2. Acquire from time to time and at all times and either by construction, purchase, lease or otherwise all such buildings premises, plant, machinery, equipment and stock as may in the opinion of the Board be necessary or desirable for the carrying on by the Board of any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid.

3. Acquire and distribute information relating to or as to the best manner of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid; and undertake the education, instruction and training of Islanders or other persons in any such business, trade, or occupation, and for that purpose establish, maintain, and conduct all such schools and classes as the Board may deem necessary; and enter into contracts of apprenticeship with any such person as aforesaid.

4. For the purpose of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, have and exercise all such powers, authorities and discretions, and do all such acts and things as a private person carrying on business in Queensland might have or exercise or do.

5. Cause investigations to be made, and from time to time report and make recommendations to the Director, upon all or any of the following matters:—

- Any question relating to any trade, commerce, or business carried on by or in which Islanders are interested or engaged;
- Markets for goods produced or manufactured by Islanders and trade with other countries in, and the method of marketing such goods;
- Generally as to how the trade, industries, and commerce of Islanders can be best encouraged, developed, and protected.

6. Finance any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid and for that purpose raise money on loan from the Governor in Council, the Treasurer, the Director, the Corporation of the Bureau of Rural Development or any bank or financial institution or person, and mortgage or assign property of the Board (including contracts between the Board and Islanders or other persons relating to or arising out of any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid).

GENERAL TRADING.

It has been particularly noticeable during the year under review that the Torres Strait Islander customer of the Board is becoming more conscious of quality, and is insistent upon the supply of a good quality item consistent with price, and in this regard, the Board,

through the efforts of the Director of Native Affairs and State Stores Board has endeavoured to meet the improved standards and requirements. It was also noticeable that ready money for purchases has not been as free as in previous years and this would appear to indicate that the Islander is recognising the need for some provision for the future. This has been particularly so following on the failure of the trochus market, and the lower incomes being received by the workers in that branch of the marine industry. The Board equally with the Thursday Island traders has in the latter part of the year to some degree felt this reduced income, and it is expected that with recent developments in the pearl shell markets, trading will become more restricted and ready cash less free among the customers of both the independent trader and the Board.

Of interest in this regard are the following figures:—

- (a) A nett turnover of £293,335 from its retail stores as compared with £276,764 last year.
- (b) Sales of marine produce totalling £129,624.

Seventeen retail stores have operated throughout the financial year spread from Saibai Island on the New Guinea coast to Cowal Creek

on the Australian mainland. Each of these retail stores is operated and maintained entirely by Torres Strait Islanders who handle a range of goods consistent with the needs of the modern and discriminating customer.

The impact of modern living has reached the Islander, and with its comes the problems of hire purchase, etc. The Board's customers, at the recent Councillors' Conference requested the Board to examine the position and to provide a service to the peoples of Torres Strait at the most economical terms practicable.

The policy of the Board has always provided for the provision of an item at a fair margin of profit and to this end the Board has frequently compared its retail prices with other similar firms operating on Thursday Island to find that prices vary only a few pence in the majority of cases. The Board's profits are devoted only to Islanders' welfare and advancement and the Board's policy in this regard has been consistent for many years. The Board's books and accounts are subject to audit by the Auditor General each year and profits are distributed only with the approval of the Governor in Council.

Set out hereunder are Branch Store trading figures during the past financial year. —

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.
STATEMENT OF STORE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1957-58.

Island.	Turnover 1956-57.			Turnover 1957-58.			Cash.			Stock.			Total Cash and Stock.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Badu	28,437	7	8	30,095	3	6	377	7	10	3,637	8	11	4,014	16	9	
Bamaga	17,436	14	9	20,072	19	9	167	7	10	2,543	15	10	2,711	3	8	
Boigu	7,143	14	6	7,911	1	9	234	4	3	2,761	7	10	2,995	12	1	
Coconut	11,619	15	4	10,070	6	7	170	4	7	3,093	8	4	3,263	12	11	
Cowal Creek	13,825	5	1	17,700	11	8	140	6	9	3,017	0	4	3,157	7	1	
Darnley	17,819	3	11	17,118	8	9	293	16	10	5,398	3	0	5,691	19	10	
Dauan	4,940	8	0	5,568	4	11	215	1	3	3,528	10	11	3,743	12	2	
Kubin	6,362	7	9	5,851	19	4	327	6	0	1,793	3	2	2,120	9	2	
Mabuiag	14,030	3	0	13,559	1	9	238	13	3	4,613	19	9	4,852	13	0	
Murray	22,637	7	1	21,044	0	2	157	11	2	5,685	13	4	5,843	4	6	
Naghir	1,421	8	1	1,497	7	8	107	4	2	836	16	8	944	0	10	
Saibai	12,121	4	1	11,356	18	11	242	2	4	2,970	0	10	3,212	3	2	
Stephen	4,416	17	1	4,155	5	9	118	8	2	2,551	12	2	2,670	0	4	
Yam	9,923	16	10	8,902	0	9	134	14	10	2,997	9	8	3,132	4	6	
Yorke	12,729	11	1	11,052	5	1	448	17	9	3,200	6	9	3,649	4	6	
Tamwoy Store	472	14	8	4,873	17	6	..	..	..	345	10	9	345	10	9
Thursday Island Store	57,046	5	5	62,034	0	0	..	..	..	6,597	17	6	6,597	17	6
Kennedy Store	34,379	8	2	40,472	0	11	..	..	..	38,404	19	6	38,404	19	6
Bulk Store .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94,755	19	10	94,755	19	10
	£	276,763	12	4	293,335	14	9	3,373	7	0	188,733	5	1	192,106	12	1

BUILDINGS.

The rebuilding programme has continued steadily during the year, with the result that now the Board is in a position to consider applications being received for the provision of new stores at other centres to provide a more convenient service to its customers.

The Head Office has not as yet been rebuilt but plans are well in hand.

Maintenance on establishments is continually kept up to required standards and the native artisans continue to provide workmanship of the highest order under the supervision and direction of Mr. E. Niblett.

MARINE PRODUCE.

The Torres Strait fleet continued to maintain its production standards, and the present season indicates similar returns.

Production figures are as indicated in the following statement of boats catches for the season:—

MARINE PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1957-58.

Name of Vessel.	Mother-of-Pearl.				Trochus.				Total Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Petta Nona	28	16	2	1					12,864	9	2
May Nona	27	5	2	21					12,832	12	3
Relsie Nona	26	1	3	22					12,801	10	0
Naianga	27	0	3	15					12,130	4	4
Tilona Nona	15	17	0	3					7,256	15	1
Annie Nona	15	17	3	4					7,235	4	7
Sarah Nona	14	8	1	13					6,517	1	4
Cessa	11	11	0	8	3	11	2	2	6,426	7	9
Mosby	13	7	2	11	0	2	1	23	6,286	14	10
Macoy	9	15	2	24	4	4	2	3	5,775	11	3
Milton	7	15	1	0	3	14	0	17	4,865	14	7
Maria	0	7	0	8	19	3	0	15	4,307	7	8
Anna Stephen	4	8	0	21	2	3	2	20	2,838	19	7
Caroline	0	1	3	15	12	4	0	25	2,576	5	6
Loyalty					8	18	0	8	2,148	14	0
Rebecca					5	7	0	6	1,748	10	10
Yaza	1	11	3	19					919	0	6
Adai					4	13	0	11	897	17	5
S.S. Dona	0	18	3	13	1	17	3	8	858	16	9
Adiana					4	5	1	5	689	9	1
Cape York	0	2	3	12	0	9	0	12	209	3	10
Wadumo	0	2	3	21	0	10	3	27	167	18	7
Zunal	0	2	0	4					43	15	10
Dinghys	0	10	2	14	24	9	1	13	1,244	9	3
Price Adjustments, etc.	206	4	0	25	95	14	1	27	113,640	15	0
									20,958	11	5
									£134,599	6	5

SLIPWAY.

This has operated for the major portion of the year with a native tradesman in charge and the efficiency of work leaves nothing to be desired. All classes of vessels, consistent with the ability of the slipway, have been handled, repairs efficiently completed and the vessels put to sea again with the minimum loss of time.

VESSELS.

The "Gelam" has operated at maximum efficiency during the year, and the Master—Captain T. N. Le Grand, deserves the gratitude of the peoples of Torres Strait for his ever willingness to proceed to sea on a moment's notice to meet medical emergencies.

The "Kebisu" which is not now required by the Board will be sold at a later date.

MANUAL TRAINING SCHEME.

It is pleasing to report that the assistance given towards the provision of the above facility at the Waiben State School has met with great success. The Island lads are keen and will ultimately form the pool for the provision of carpenters throughout the Torres Strait in the days to come.

GENERAL.

The Board is particularly appreciative of the work of the officers of the Department of Native Affairs in Brisbane and the State Stores Board for the keenness displayed in meeting the requirements of the Board's customers.

APPENDIX 11.

EDWARD RIVER MISSION (CHURCH OF ENGLAND).

(Acting Superintendent—Rev. D. S. Halliday.)

STAFF.

Mr. Gordon Green—Superintendent.
 Rev. D. S. Halliday—Chaplain and Teacher.
 Mrs. D. S. Halliday, R.N.S.—Nursing Sister.
 Sister I. B. Johnson, Church Army—Welfare Officer.
 Mr. Nicholas Wheeler—Head Cattle Man.

STATISTICS.

Full-bloods	237
Half-bloods	1
Total	238
Births	7
Deaths	6
Marriages	4

Despite a number of unfortunate circumstances, there has been a marked degree of progress during the past year. After only a short stay of six months, Mr. Garnet Pidsley was forced to resign from the position of Superintendent because of the serious illness of his wife. Mrs. Pidsley is still in Cairns Base Hospital, and is slowly recovering the use of her limbs. We do thank them sincerely for the work that they did do in their short stay with us. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Green and family, formerly of the Church Office, Thursday Island, arrived to take over as Superintendent as from 1st May. It is to be hoped that their stay will be long and successful.

During the year a system of wages was instituted for workers on the mission. Slowly the people are beginning to realise the use of money in their buying from the Cash Store. They are gradually learning to respect the goods and belongings of other people, and also to take a pride in whatever work they are doing.

A great highlight of the year was the arrival of the long-awaited truck, a K.S.5 International. Despite the sandy ground, the truck has been of inestimable value, especially in the transporting of timber and leaf for the various building jobs, and for the unloading of the mission supply boats.

During the year a large store, a garage, and twelve village homes have been erected; while 18 homes have been enlarged and relieved, as

well as the Hospital, the School kitchen and 2 staff houses. Preliminary work has started on the construction of an all-weather landing strip. This is a large undertaking and will require the acquiring of more equipment to do the job satisfactorily.

The general health of all the people of the Mission has shown a vast improvement; not a little is due to the generous scale of rations, such as wheatmeal flour, cheese, peanut paste, milk, vegetables, supplied by the Director of Native Affairs. The school kitchen continues to serve two meals daily. This work is being supervised by Sr. Johnson with the invaluable help of three native girls. The pre-school children are given milk twice daily, and the evening meal. In the village five stores have been placed in different homes, and great use is being made of them.

A great step forward has been made with the construction of a permanent Church, measuring 60 feet x 25 feet. It is almost completed, and once in use it is hoped that a greater degree of orderliness and sense of worship will be reflected in the services. All the services during the year have shown increased attendances, both Sunday and week-day. One of the most memorable services of the year was the first Nuptial Mass, celebrated in September. The Girl's Club, and the Choir and Hymn-singing practices have continued during the year with steady progress. Through the generosity of friends from "down South" a reading library is being built up, and at present the girls are beginning to realise the vastness of the world outside their own tribal and Mission area.

Owing to the absence of the Head Cattle man in Hospital for six months, progress with the cattle has not been as great as desired: 118 head of cattle were branded; a new stock fence impounding permanent water has been started; as well as a regular supply of cattle killed for domestic purposes.

The three Councillors who were elected last July for the first time have shown that the experiment is successful. These three have been a great help in assisting the Superintendent in the running of the Mission, especially with the work force, and the maintaining of discipline.

As the Chaplain had to take over the duties of Superintendent, there has not been regular schooling since January. However a Torres Strait Islander, Ephraim Gebadi, who also came in May, is acting as headteacher during the absence of the Chaplain on furlough. There are three native assistants who have given valuable assistance as teachers in this past year.

The Mission wishes to thank sincerely the Director and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, the Radio operators, the General Medical Officer of Thursday Island Hospital, the board of the Cairns Aerial Ambulance, the Flying Doctor (Charters Towers) and others who have given of their time and skill to assist in the welfare of the people and the development of the Mission.

APPENDIX 12.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION (CHURCH OF ENGLAND).

(Superintendent—Mr. F. W. Currington.)

STAFF.

Rev. D. M. Sutherland—Chaplain.
Miss S. M. Card—Head Teacher.
Mr. George Wheeler—Cattle Manager.

STATISTICS.

Full-bloods	..	..	..	..	707
Half-bloods	..	..	..	..	23
Total	..	..	..	..	730
Births	..	..	..	..	12
Deaths	..	..	..	..	13
Marriages	..	..	..	..	1

AGRICULTURE.

Only crops at present are: Sweet potatoes, pumpkins, cassava, beans, papaws, mangoes. Good crops of vegetables have been harvested.

INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Good progress has been maintained during the year. Mr. H. Gunther resigned as cattle manager, and his place being taken by Mr. G. Wheeler. Mustering and brandings are up to expectations. New fencing and fencing repairs have been carried out, and a new paddock has been enclosed for holding bullocks for sale. Killers supplied as usual for the benefit of the Mission inmates. Owing to the very dry season, there were no sales of bullocks, but at the present we are negotiating to sell two mobs in the near future.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Necessary repairs have been carried out to both village and staff houses. Maintenance to the airstrip, which involves a lot of labour, has been attended to, to meet the requirements of the D.C.A.

EMPLOYMENT.

All able bodied men not required for Mission maintenance, have no difficulty in obtaining employment on cattle stations, and we are not able to supply all the labour that is needed.

CONDUCT.

Quite satisfactory.

RELIGION.

Services during the year have been maintained as usual by the Chaplain, and Catechism classes, and Religious instruction in the Mission school have been conducted regularly.

During the Chaplain's absence on furlough from June until September, prayers and services were conducted by the Superintendent and other members of the staff. During the year there was 1 marriage, 14 baptisms, 28 confirmed by the Bishop, and 12 burials.

HOSPITAL.

The health of the inmates has been attended to by Sister Methven (now resigned) who also gave attendance to the Baby Clinic. A distri-

bution of milk and oatmeal was provided for pre-school children weekly. We had a visit during the year from Health Inspector O'Shea. Mass treatment for hookworm was given, and has been continued since. We receive a monthly visit from the Flying Doctor at Charters Towers, when a general check over is given. We greatly appreciate these visits, as it is a valuable asset to the Mission. We also receive a quarterly visit from the Flying Dentist and his assistant, and dental attention is given. Health of the inmates is satisfactory.

DORMITORY.

Until recently this was under the supervision of Mrs. Warman (Dormitory Matron) and until the new Matron arrives it is under the care of native women.

SCHOOL.

There are 100 children on the roll. The children attend regularly, and are making progress in their lessons. Jessis, Susan, and Maureen have become better teachers during the year. Leah, and Venus left after long periods of good teaching. Florence joined the staff on her sixteenth birthday.

RECREATION.

Football, cricket, general sports, native dancing, and talkie pictures frequently shown.

APPRECIATIONS.

We very much appreciate the assistance given at all times by the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs, and their staffs, not forgetting the base radio operators and their willing co-operation at all times.

APPENDIX 13.

AURUKUN MISSION, CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

(Superintendent—Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A.)

STAFF.

Mrs. MacKenzie, B.A., Dip.Ed.—Matron and Head Teacher.
Sister A. A. Cameron, S.B.N.—Medical Work.
Mr. T. S. Bartlett—Engineer and Mechanic.
Mrs. Bartlett—Teacher.
Mr. J. Henderson—Builder and Carpenter.
Mrs. Henderson—Assistant Matron.
Mr. J. Hudson—Cattle.

AGRICULTURE.

Fair returns were obtained this year from the gardens and cultivation. The difference between a good yield and a poor one is nearly always due to the lack of rain at a critical period. An analysis of the soil shows that it is of a poor quality, but careful work with the addition of manure and compost, the ploughing in of green cover crops and the judicious use of fertiliser often works wonders. During the wet of 1957-58 every effort was made to have the paddocks ready for planting when the rains came. Two acres were planted with sweet potatoes, one acre with pumpkins. Smaller acreages, each in different paddocks were planted with maize, sorghum, cassava, phaseou-

lus bean and cow pea. The vegetable garden used in the cooler weather, gave a good supply of vegetables, tomatoes being quite prolific. Papaws were planted in greater numbers to enable more fruit to be given to the children. Sugar cane was also grown, and while it lasted a small piece was given to each child at supper time to chew so that teeth might be kept clean. The coconut plantation at Wutan provides an all the year supply of nuts for the children. During this year no new seedlings were planted so that the seedlings planted in the previous two years might be looked after until they became established. It was decided to start again in the banana plantation on a creek flat at Wutan, and 80 suckers have been planted where they can be watered from shallow wells. Pineapple suckers and a new variety of cassava have also been planted at the Mission, these being a gift from Bamaga. The Deputy Director of Native Affairs kindly arranged transport to enable the Superintendent to visit Bamaga. Much valuable information was obtained, and the exchange of ideas very helpful. I should like to express my appreciation to Mr. Killoran and the staff at Bamaga for their kindness and courtesy.

DIET.

Home grown produce, fruit, vegetables and coconuts are given to the children as often as possible, at least once a day; fresh meat is supplied daily and twice a week fish and shell fish are traded from the village people and served to the children.

DAIRY.

The dairy herd continues to yield results; enough milk is got through most of the year to give the school children and the under-school group a milk issue each day. During the wet when the calves come in and there is abundance of feed over 30 gallons of milk are obtained daily; this from 30 cows, with once a day milking as we have to leave the calves with their dams. More work has been done in improving pastures for the dairy cows. This year a great quality of hay was cut, dried and stored for use during the dry season, and an experiment made with silage.

CATTLE.

Jerry Hudson and his men made a droving trip with 377 head to Mungana. Only one beast was lost on the road. Forty bulls of a good class were bought, but unfortunately owing to bad conditions some of these were lost and the rest had to be left at Edward River Mission till after the wet. We are grateful to the Superintendent of this Mission for permission to leave the bulls there. Total brandings for the year—1,025. Fourteen bulls from the Mission herd were sent to Mapoon Mission. Sixteen bush yards were built in various places on the Reserve for holding cattle during mustering. Work was continued on the 14-mile fence to make a holding paddock between the Kirke and Kendall Rivers. Sixty bulls were slaughtered for consumption on the Mission.

The Mission is very grateful to the Minister and to the Director for the opportunity of sending two of our men to Gatton College to attend a class on butchering.

BUILDING.

Mr. Henderson and his team have completed the Girls' Dormitory. This is a fine large building, giving ample room for the girls who are very proud of it. The toilet and bath-room block was finished also toilet stands in the village. The new Dispensary-Hospital building was finished, with the exception of internal cupboards and painting. The Hospital portion contains male and female wards, each 10 feet by 20 feet with the Dispensary portion of the same size in the centre. The new cottage for the head stockman is completed with the exception of painting. The second staff cottage has been completed up to floor level. As soon as the rest of the material for this arrives, it will be completed. In the village, 10 new huts were completed, all of standard size, 16 feet by 14 feet. All huts now being built in the village are set on stumps. Mr. Henderson has supervised the erection of these huts which are framed out of bush timber with walls and roof of bark. Every hut in the village has been fitted with properly made steps, made by the owner under supervision.

ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS.

Mr. Bartlett has a full time job keeping all engines, trucks and tractor in good repair. The cold room and deep-freeze unit are working satisfactorily. Beef, fish, etc., can be kept fresh, for rations every day. A maintenance log is kept and the work done on each engine is noted down for reference. The welding plant is a splendid acquisition, and many old worn out pieces of machinery were able to be repaired and brought back to use, the rotary hoe has broken parts fixed and built up; the old Moffatt Virtue wireless engine was put into commission again and is used to drive the grinder so that wheat may be freshly ground each day for the children's porridge. A strong raft was made out of 44-gallon drums. The seven drums in each row are welded lengthways and six of these rows carry a decking thus enabling the load of several tons to be transported. By means of this raft a truck was floated up the river to the cattle camp and brought back before the wet set in. The unloading of stores from boats is also greatly facilitated as the raft, which, when fully loaded, draws only 18 inches of water. Mr. Bartlett has older boys working with him and they are receiving a good training in mechanical work, and have shown their ability to do simple welding under supervision.

SCHOOL.

One hundred and twenty-five were on the roll for the year. Five of these children came from the bush, their ages ranging from 8 to 13 years. They had had no schooling and spoke no English. All are progressing, and the two eldest boys, aged 11 and 12 years, in nine months were ready for book III. of the

First Australian Primers. Mrs. Bartlett offered to assist in the school after her own children had gone to boarding school, an offer which was most gratefully accepted. She has taken charge of the Lower School, and already there are signs of better progress though she has been assisting only a couple of months.

HEALTH.

Health is on the whole good with the population gradually increasing. Thirteen babies were born during the year, six male, and seven female babies. Deaths. Five deaths, one baby boy, premature, one woman murdered, three old women, one from senile decay, and two from heart failure. The Flying Doctor from Charters Towers continues to visit regularly and takes out any needing special attention—seven cases this year. Everyone living in the Mission was mantoux tested this year and B.C.G. immunization given to negative reactors.

It is hoped that all the inmates of the Mission will be X-rayed in the near future. T.B. patients attend Thursday Island Hospital for check regularly. The Aerial Ambulance has also proved invaluable in assisting for the hospitalization of urgent cases. Five patients were taken out this year. Mass treatment for Hookworm is carried out every six months. We are hoping that soon we shall be able to have a visiting dentist, as all aching teeth have to be extracted, whereas many of them could be filled. Baby Clinic is held once a week, and all babies are immunised with Triple-Antigen. There are now 62 babies and children under school age in the village.

There were six marriages this year.

BEHAVIOUR.

Behaviour on the whole was good. All cases of breach of discipline were dealt with by the native council, presided over by the Superintendent. There was one unfortunate case of murder in the village where a man stabbed and killed his wife. The man was removed by Police from Cairns.

HYGIENE.

Hygiene is well under control with the completion of new lavatory blocks for the Dormitories, also lavatories in the village, one between every two houses. The pans are disinfected and tarred. The refuse is buried each day in a specially fenced in area.

OLDER BOYS.

The older boys after they leave school help with the cultivation. Those who show an aptitude for carpentry and wood-work get instruction from Mr. Henderson, while Mr. Bartlett takes those who are more interested in the mechanical side.

OLDER GIRLS.

The older girls receive instruction in domestic duties, plain and fancy sewing.

ARTS AND CRAFTS.

The women in the village make table mats, fruit baskets and serviette rings, from pandanus leaves which they first dye with juices from various bush plants. These are sold for them by the Mission which retains only sufficient percentage for handling.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Daily week day services are held and the regular Sunday services. The attendance is good and keen interest is shown. Special classes in instruction are held for those who wish to join the Church. Good and faithful service is still being done by Archiwald our native missionary to the bush people. Regular visits are made to help her and to see the bush people.

EMPLOYMENT.

Three men are working on cattle stations, seven men are working from Thursday Island. Last year 26 men were employed by the Bauxite Survey Companies. This year thirteen men are in employment. On the Mission about 35 men are employed in cattle and other work. Seventeen women are also employed in teaching, domestic and other work.

VISITORS.

We were very pleased to have a visit from the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble, the Director of Native Affairs, the Under Secretary and Private Secretary. The visits of Mr. S. R. Walsh, Officer in charge, Bureau of Tropical Agriculture, South Johnstone, Mr. W. F. Mawson, Senior Adviser, Cattle Husbandry, Atherton, Mr. G. A. Stewart and Mr. S. Christian of C.S.I.R.O. were of great help because of the great help and advice they were able to give us on Agriculture and Cattle Work. The Mission was also very pleased to be able to welcome our Moderator, The Rt. Rev. R. S. Park.

THANKS.

Our grateful thanks are given to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and his Department, also the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and their respective staffs in Brisbane and Thursday Island, the Secretary for Mission and his staff the ladies of the Church Missionary organisations, the Flying Doctor and the Pilot, the Medical Officers and Nurses at Thursday Island Hospital, Waiben and Aplin, the Cairns Aerial Ambulance for their great help and encouragement, indeed to all friends who have helped us here at Aurukun to enable us to care for the people committed to our care.

APPENDIX 14.

MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION
(PRESBYTERIAN).

(Superintendent—Rev. D. L. Belcher.)

STAFF.

Mrs. Belcher—Matron.
Mr. W. D. Page—Industrial Assistant and Mrs. Page.
Mr. L. J. McMillan—Builder and Mrs. McMillan.
Sister N. Graham—Nurse.
Miss M. S. Bain, B.Sc.—School Teacher.

STATISTICS.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	12
Deaths	..	..	..	..	6 (4 aged)	
Stillbirth	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	1
Transfer to Mission	..	..	..	..	..	1
Exemptions	..	..	2 families	(10 persons)		
Population—						
Halfcaste	..	..	..	..	..	41
Fullblood	..	..	..	..	..	361

402

RELIGION.

Daily services are conducted and the Sacraments are administered. Twenty young people became communicant members of the Church, nine of these were Bentinck Islanders.

AGRICULTURE.

Vegetables such as sweet potatoes and tomatoes are raised in a limited quantity. Several of the people make some attempt to establish small gardens of their own, but generally it is difficult to encourage the people to grow vegetables under such poor conditions of soil and over-all rainfall.

Having recently acquired a launch, we plan to obtain guano from Rocky Island and with this fertilizer the prospects for more productive gardens are better.

CATTLE.

Cattle are slaughtered at the rate of approximately ninety per year, which is inadequate for the needs of the Mission. It will be two or three years before we benefit greatly from the re-organized cattle work under Head-Stockman Pat Reid.

A well on nearby Denham Island has been lined with concrete and a tank and troughs erected. It is planned that a small windmill will be erected soon.

A launch has been purchased for the general use of the Mission and in particular, for transporting cattle to the nearby mainland by means of a towed barge. However, it seems that this plan will not come into operation for some considerable time. The Superintendent of Doomadgee Mission has kindly co-operated in making available an area near Bailey Point to facilitate this plan.

A small quantity of milk is produced and this is used for the children.

EDUCATION.

(Report by Miss M. Bain.)

School Staff.—M. S. Bain and eight native teachers.

This year we have 105 boys and girls in the school and the highest grade is the fourth.

During the past six months we have been commencing work daily as soon as it is light enough to read, and in this way we have been able to avoid the necessity for school work in the hot afternoons. This arrangement provides ample time for the staff to prepare for the work of the following day.

Ellen Richards particularly is doing her usual excellent work and the help of the other native teachers too is invaluable.

One of the girls, Shirley Richards, Ellen's daughter, left the Mission School this year to study for the Scholarship Examination at Blackheath College, Charters Towers. We are all proud of her achievement and our best wishes go with her.

While the attendance at School is very good, the progress made is slow. I am convinced that most of the children could work much more quickly than at present. This would mean that they would automatically reach a higher standard by the time they reach leaving age, many achieving secondary school standard. They should too, with increasing knowledge, be more interested in their work. It is obviously extremely difficult to interest a child of fourteen, when his standard of reading is that of a child of eight or nine. However, the native staff, as well as the children, is accustomed to working very slowly, the average speed being only 40% of that in southern schools. Obviously all the work during school hours needs constant supervision by a member of the Mission Staff if an adequate speed is to be maintained. This is not possible, since I am the only Staff Member who is engaged in teaching and must be responsible for the work of the older children, there being no native teacher who is capable of this work except Ellen Richards who is urgently needed to teach Preparatory I.

The position is rendered more difficult by inadequate accommodation, practically the whole school being housed in the Church. It is therefore impossible to take advantage of equipment which would be available if we had facilities which would enable us to use it.

If it were possible to achieve the increased speed, and the children were assisted to the maximum of their capacity, then they would be capable of taking a much broader share in the work of the North, and would be able to step forward much more quickly towards assimilation.

BUILDING.

Because of the overall plan to move the Mission to a new site on the Island, only temporary buildings are being erected on the Mission area, although the native people continue to erect small dwellings of bush timber and galvanised iron. After a considerable delay, work has recommenced on the erection of six pre-fabricated houses 30 feet x 10 feet, which have been purchased on behalf of the people. These are being erected on an intermediate site, which means they can be incorporated into the proposed new Mission area.

A pre-fabricated cottage has been erected for our native teacher, Ellen Richards. This was supplied by the Department of Health and Home Affairs. A similar building is to be erected for use as a teenage girls' dwelling, while the third has been erected as a temporary dwelling for the McMillan family. Material for an assistant's cottage awaits erection on the proposed new site.

NEW SITE.

It has become the policy of our Brisbane Missions Committee to move the Mission to a new site about half a mile east of the present site. The new site is on flat high ground, near the channel, allowing for the installation of a salt water septic or sewage system. The present site is sandy and unhygienic. It will require considerable capital expenditure to complete this proposed plan.

HEALTH.

The second Salk Vaccine injection was given, but the third is not yet available. Following a single case of tuberculosis last year, a Mantoux test was made of the whole population, and B.C.G. injections were given where required. The T.B. patient has now returned to the Mission and seems to be in good health.

Two visits have been made by Dentist Mr. R. Denham, one in September, 1957, and the second in April, 1958. The Flying Doctor makes a clinic visit each month. The result of this regular call minimises emergency calls; only one has been made in this year.

We had a 'flu epidemic from the middle of August to November, 1957; a small epidemic of "Pink Eye" disease in November, 1957, and an epidemic of boils in Feb.-March, 1958. In June, 1957, one aged woman was transferred to Fantome Island suffering from Hansen's Disease.

VILLAGE.

The main well has been lined with 4 feet diameter concrete pipes and a geared windmill has been erected over it. Water is pumped to a nearby tank from which the people draw water. It is planned that this geared mill will pump water to the nearby ridge on which new dwellings are being erected. Material is on hand for this. Furthermore, this mill will be capable of pumping water from the existing well to the proposed new site on higher ground.

HYGIENE.

Following a visit by Health Inspector, Mr. J. P. O'Shea in October, work has commenced on cement floored lavatories for each native family. A heavy mould was constructed, allowing for a small stub wall surrounding the floor, to prevent hookworm infested material from reaching the surrounding soil and so creating a health menace. As well, night soil is being disposed into the sea; contrary to earlier expectations, no fouling of the shore has resulted. It is felt that even such conservative measures should greatly reduce the incidence of hookworm, disposing of nightsoil into the sea as compared with the previous method of burial.

E.C. cabinets and pans are purchased by the people. Two councillors have been appointed to make a daily hygiene inspection.

LAUNCH.

The "Watt Leggatt II" has been purchased from the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions. The launch had been in use at Wotjulm, W.A., but as this Mission was moved

to Derby there was no further need for the launch. It was taken by ship to Thursday Island, where some additions were made at considerable cost to make it thoroughly sea-worthy for Gulf waters. The craft is 36 feet long with 10 foot beam, powered with a 36-h.p. Gardener Diesel engine. It made the trip from Thursday Island to Mornington Island under the care of Mr. D. Page and two native crew. The launch is radio equipped and has a portable license within the Cloneurry R.F.D.S. network. The "Watt Leggatt II" has proved very useful as a mother ship for dugong and turtle hunting, which greatly helps in the feeding of the native people. As well, two trips have been made to Burketown in recent months to obtain stores owing to the late arrival of the Gulf ship "Cora."

EMPLOYMENT.

The Mission continues to supply crew for the "Cora," and at present we have forty-two men and youths employed on cattle stations on the mainland, while there are ten women and girls employed as domestics at Hospitals and cattle stations. A recent study has shown that men employed in the cattle industry are engaged for approximately seven months annually, and therefore their average earnings over the twelve months are fairly low. This factor is important in assessing the contribution possible by employable natives of the Mission, towards the maintenance of their families living at the Mission.

At a meeting of the Councillors and men of the Mission, the cattle work in particular was discussed and it was agreed that all men who are employed in any calling should contribute regularly towards the development and maintenance of the cattle work of the Mission, as they and their families benefit directly from such work. This proposed plan has not yet been put into action, but it shows that where encouragement and guidance is given, the aboriginal people are willing to help themselves towards the ideal of self-sufficiency.

GENERAL.

Several recent events indicate that progress is being made towards assimilation. The first was the granting of a Scholarship to Shirley Richards, daughter of our halfcaste teacher Ellen Richards. Shirley has become a boarder at Blackheath College, Charters Towers, and the Principal has written: "Shirley has settled in extremely well; she is a nice, well-mannered and a very well adjusted girl. I am very impressed with her." (Shirley's sister, Ina, has completed the general nursing course at St. Stephen's Hospital Maryborough.)

At the time of the evacuation of Bentinck Island in 1947, a small lad (now known to us as Peter Loogatha) was considered so ill that his relatives left him in the abandoned camp while they were taken aboard the Mission launch, to take up a new life on Mornington Island. It was only the alertness of the Mornington Island men which caused Peter to be collected and brought to Mornington Island, as an emaci-

ated and sickly child. Peter is now 16 years of age and has just gone out to employment on a cattle station.

Morris, a Bentinck Islander, has been appointed as a Mission policeman to represent his people as a group in the community here at Mornington Island.

APPRECIATION.

We thank the Director of Native Affairs and Staff, the Protector of Aborigines, Burketown, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and others for their interest and practical help at all times.

APPENDIX 15.

HAMMOND ISLAND MISSION (ROMAN CATHOLIC).

(Priest in Charge—Rev. O. McDermott.)

STAFF.

Resident Priest—Rev. A. J. Collins.
Two Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
Lay Worker—Francis Dorante.

STATISTICS.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	3
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	1
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	3
School Children	..	..	..	..	..	38
Residents	..	..	..	..	..	103

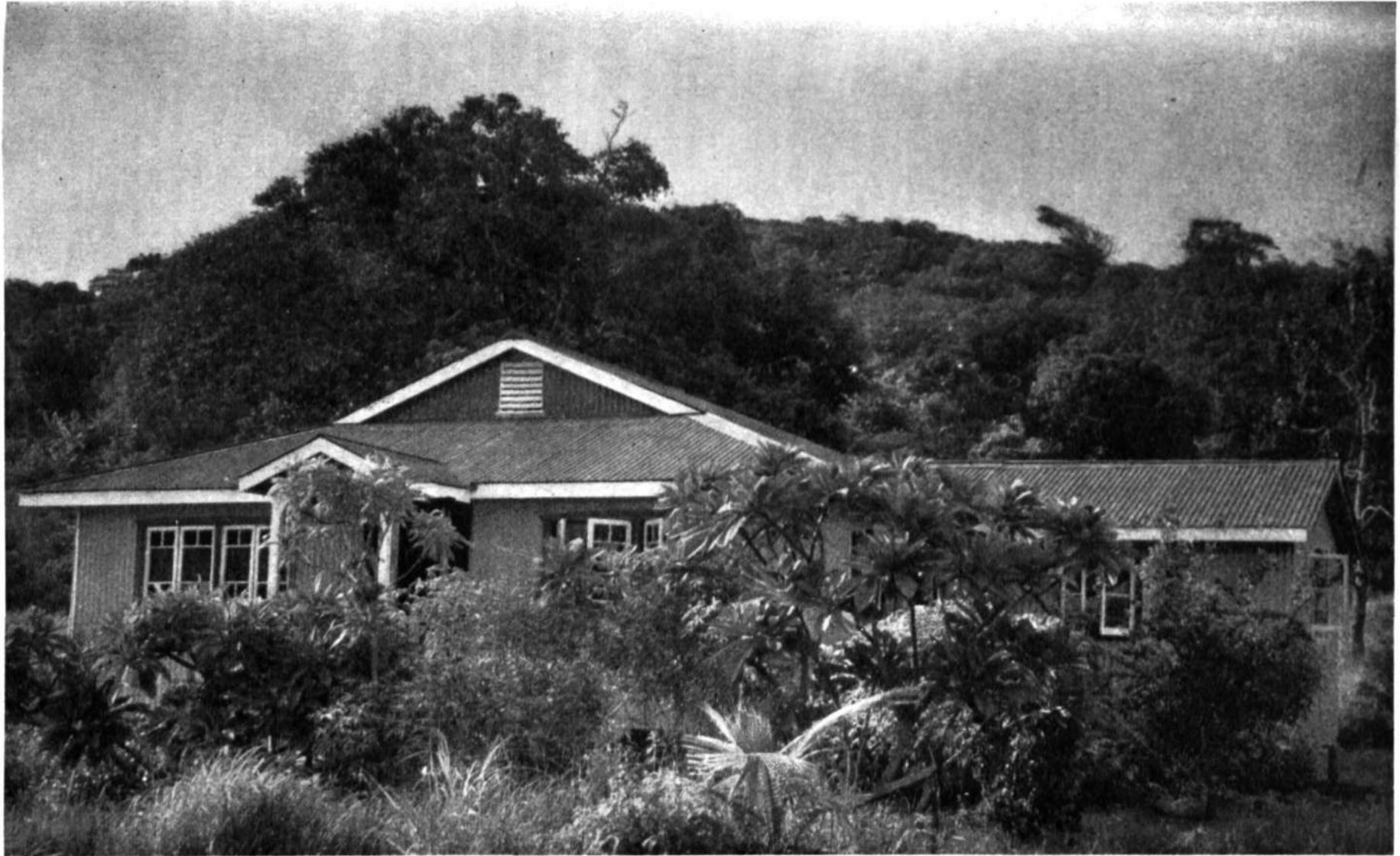
DISCIPLINE.

Discipline during the year has been very good. Co-operation of residents with the staff has been satisfactory and the community spirit has remained quite good. Calls for voluntary work to assist in Mission maintenance and in school construction met with a ready response.

Church services are well attended. During July, 1958, Rev. Father Hogan, C.S.S.R., of Townsville, will conduct a week's mission at Hammond Island. The people of the Mission are eagerly anticipating Father Hogan's visit; 100 per cent. attendance is assured and much good will result.

HEALTH.

Apart from a severe throat infection which caused the death in Thursday Island Hospital of one school girl, no serious illness was reported during the year. The Sister in charge of Thursday Island Children's Clinic has made regular visits to the Mission and her recommendations have been gratefully accepted by parents when children were found to need medical or dental attention. The children have received their three injections of Salk Vaccine; the last being given by Dr. O'Leary who also made a good check of the general health of the children and expressed his pleasure at seeing such healthy young people. The Mission residents have unbounded faith in Dr. Meredith and his staff at Thursday Island Hospital and need no urging to seek medical aid when it is needed. For dental treatment some prefer Mr. E. Saranealis, others the Clinic dentist.



Newly erected house, Hammond Island Catholic Mission, Torres Strait.

Mr. O'Shea, Health Officer, visited the Mission recently and expressed himself as satisfied with the housing and general hygiene. The Mission folk regard him as a good friend and appreciate his interest in their welfare. Foundations have been laid for two new homes. Maintenance and improvements to existing homes evince a pride in home ownership.

Fish, turtle, dugong, and pork help provide variety and substance to the meal tables. Bananas, papaws, pineapples, sweet potatoes, manioc, and yams are grown principally for home consumption.

EDUCATION.

During his May visit to Thursday Island, the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. H. W. Noble, M.B., B.S., M.L.A., officially opened our new school of two class rooms and a wide verandah. The school was constructed by the men of the Mission and is a credit to them. Built on concrete piers, the school has exterior walls of fibrolite, masonite interior walls, caneite ceiling and hardwood floor. Folding doors, which can be used as blackboards, separate the class rooms and a stage has been incorporated into the structure thus providing a fine concert hall. Wide doors and a liberal use of glass louvres give abundant light, assure adequate ventilation and keep the school cool on the hottest of days. Painting of walls and ceiling in light pastel shades creates a pleasing atmosphere. A large area of flat ground in front of the school provides a fine playground.

We are happy to report good progress in all branches of school work, in arts and crafts and in music. One girl is boarding at Thursday Island Convent for schooling in 7th Grade with a view to training next year in commercial work. Mary Garnier is at St. Mary's College, Charters Towers, in Sub-Junior class. Several children are progressing well as pianists and church organists. Sewing, cooking, housework, and needlework tuition is given to the girls whilst canework, toy-making and elementary carpentry are taught to the boys. Hygiene is given high priority.

VISITORS.

During the year we have had the pleasure of welcoming many distinguished visitors. The Honourable, the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. H. W. Noble, M.B., B.S., M.L.A., accompanied by Mr. McCormack, Under Secretary, Mr. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, and Mr. Pluckrose, Private Secretary, were welcome guests for the school opening. We are most grateful to Dr. Noble for this favour. Mr. O'Leary received from the Mission folk the warm welcome that will always be his whenever circumstances permit his renewing old acquaintances.

Mr. Heading, M.L.A., Minister for Local Government, also included Hammond Island in his itinerary. He was accompanied by his Under Secretary, Mr. Longland, and Mr. Sewell, Director of Local Government. Mr. Watkins, M.H.R., visited us in the capacity of an interested tourist; he was making a health trip on the "Waiben".

CONCLUSION.

Our appreciation and gratitude is extended to all who helped the Mission during the past year—to the Honourable, the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, Mr. Killoran, the Staff of the Department of Native Affairs, Dr. Meredith, and the Staff of Thursday Island Hospital, and to all good friends and well-wishers. Assured of their sympathetic interest and support, the Mission faces the coming year with confidence even though all portents may not be favourable.

APPENDIX 16.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION, IRON RANGE, VIA CAIRNS. (Superintendent—JOHN A. WARBY.)

STAFF.

Rev. J. B. Goodman, B.A., Th.L.—Chaplain.
Mrs. J. A. Warby—Bookkeeper.
Sr. H. Conn—Medical Sister.
Miss A. Hann, Th.L.—School Teacher.
Mr. W. Namok—Carpenter.
Mr. W. Bailey, M.A.I.M.E., M.I.M.—Engineer.
Mr. J. Cook—Agriculturist.
Mrs. J. Cook.
Mr. J. Kaines—Cattle Manager.
Mrs. W. Bailey.

STAFF CHANGES.

During the last part of 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Ewin and Mr. and Mrs. Freeman resigned because of private reasons. Our thanks are due to them for their help to the mission. Mr. and Mrs. Cook, and Mr. and Mrs. Bailey took their place.

GENERAL PROGRESS.

Changes in staff and staff leave have resulted in the Mission being short of staff for most of the year. However the mission has carried on with the staff and finance available aiming to do the best possible to help the advancement of the native people on the reserve.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION ABORIGINAL CHRISTIAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

There has been the set back which is well known due to the collapse of the shell industry. However, prospects seem brighter in the industry.

The Co-operative has also ventured into the cotton production as is said in the agricultural section of this report. A Co-operative store was opened which will gradually take over the Mission store. Results have been good. A sense of responsibility is developing especially among the directors. The directors are:—

Frank O'Brien, President.
Daniel Hobson, Manager.
Peter Creek, Secretary.
Alec Sandy, Public Officer.
John Butcher, Charlie Claremont, David Marrett, Directors.
Mrs. J. Warby, Treasurer.

The Co-operative is teaching the people self-reliance and that the Aborigines have a place in this world.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

(W. Bailey, M.I.A.M.E., M.I.M., Engineer.)

Having had only five months on the unit a full analytics report would be premature. However experience in this period shows that the condition of all mechanical units is poor. Most need replacement. Particularly the engine in Mary Lockhart. This engine has reached the stage of being uneconomic to run. This matter warrants urgent attention. (Since the above was written a new engine has been ordered). Since my arrival all available time has been taken up with maintenance and obviously that has been the position for some time past.

The water supply and reticulation is satisfactory, small repairs only being necessary since my arrival.

Some work on roads has been carried out, but more is planned although we are hampered by inadequate equipment.

A small saw mill set up is projected to mill timber in 2-in. x 3-in. and 1-in. x 3-in. for urgently needed repairs to and construction of houses for the native people.

CATTLE REPORT.

(J. Kaines, Cattle Manager.)

Beef Cattle—410 clean skins have been branded and over 100 bullocks killed during the year for the Mission.

Due to poor round up in previous years, no bullocks were sold this year, but in the coming year we hope to sell 100 steers.

FENCING.

The Mission Area has been fenced off for gardens, and fencing continued. The first house paddock has been completed consisting of three miles of fencing. The second paddock will be started in July. This fence will be seven miles in length and it is hoped it will be finished by Christmas.

These two small paddocks will be invaluable for holding horses, dairy cattle and killers, and bullocks for sale.

DAIRY.

The new dairy shed is almost completed, it will be capable of handling up to sixty milkers and we hope to install milking machines in the near future.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

(Sister H. Conn, in charge of hospital.)

Births—

13 male.

10 female.

2 premature infants, 3 lbs. 10 ozs. and 4 lbs. 4 ozs.

Both babies satisfactory.

Deaths—7. All aged (2 with carcinoma); 2 following influenza and pneumonia.

Inpatients 199

Outpatients (daily average) 20

Number of patients sent to Thursday

Island by Boat 7

Number of patients flown to Cairns by

ambulance 6

Number of patients flown to Thursday

Island 10

E

The usual routine hospital work has been carried out, e.g.—

(a) Ante-natal supervision.

(b) Weekly weighing and supervision of infants.

(c) Monthly weighing of all children.

(d) Regular HB counts and Hookworm treatment to adults and children. Triple antigen given to children.

We were fortunate in having visits from Dr. O'Hara and Dr. Patrick who gave the first two injections of Salk Vaccine to the children and the staff. We were also visited by a dentist.

Although the general health of the people is good the last twelve months have been unusually busy at the hospital due to the number of serious cases who were flown out, all of whom responded well to treatment and especially due to two influenza epidemics which swept almost the entire mission. The first lasting four weeks when an extra sister was flown out to assist and the second lasting for two weeks at which time Sister Fittock, the relieving sister was still present on the mission although Sister Conn had returned from furlough and was able to give assistance.

During each epidemic a premature infant was born, the first 3 lbs. 10 ozs. and the second 4 lbs. 4 ozs. Both these are progressing satisfactorily.

THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

The children's centre continues to be a success, the proof being in the healthy happy appearance of the children, Nancy Pawlee under the supervision of the white staff is in charge of the centre and does an excellent job supervising the children's showers, preparation of the meals, children's mealtimes, and the various tasks which are allotted to the children themselves.

SCHOOL.

(Miss A. Hann, Th.L., Teacher.)

The school was opened 199 days. Number of children on roll—71.

For part of the year Mrs. Edwin was in charge of the infants' school and kindergarten. Since her departure a 15½-year old native girl has been in charge of the infants' school with another girl to assist her. A married native woman looks after the kindergarten.

In the primary school are grades III to VI and the Queensland Correspondence Course is followed and manual work is provided for.

The finding of suitable personnel for teachers is a problem. Isaac Hobson, who attended All Souls School, Charters Towers, for the past two years is assisting in the place of Mick Omeenye who is in residence at the Teachers Training College, Degura, New Guinea.

School attendance during the year was affected by two epidemics of influenza.

The Department of Native Affairs has supplied paint for painting the school. This is in progress. This should improve the Infants School as the building is dilapidated, hot, and providing insufficient light. The children working in semi-darkness. Thanks to the Department for supplying paint.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

(Father John B. Goodman, B.A. Th.L.)

The services of the church have been carried on as usual. On Monday evening and on Tuesday morning, a special service is held in the old village. The training of the lay readers continues, some have been dropped as unsuitable, but others have come forward to take their place.

There were 22 baptisms (including six old people who were baptised as a result of the services in the old village) nine senior school children and nine old people were confirmed. Three weddings and eight funerals during the year.

Six seats, seven albs, and a hymn board have been made by the people of the mission during the past year.

We look forward to the future with confidence that the light of the Gospel will spread further throughout these people.

BUILDING.

(Mr. William Namok, builder.)

The building progressed during the past year. Unseasonal rain damaged some of the rammed earth houses before they were complete. However the roofs are almost on now, so that it is impossible to have this happen again.

Maintenance work has been done where required on the mission. Materials are on hand for a maternity wing to the hospital.

AGRICULTURAL.

(Mr. J. Cook.)

Mr. R. L. Ewin left during the last half of the year and Mr. Jim Cook arrived early in January. A large scale cotton project has started, which should considerably help towards the self support of the mission. However the crop will be planted later than expected due to non-arrival of the plough. We can all look forward to this new venture of the Co-operative with expectation of interest towards self support.

APPRECIATION.

Our thanks are due to many organisations and people who have helped during the year. Especially are they due to the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs and their staff, the staff of the Department of Native Affairs radio network, the Superintendent and staff of Thursday Island Hospital, the Australian Board of Missions and all helpers, the staff of Church Office, Thursday Island, without which help the missions would not be able to carry on.

APPENDIX 17.

WEIPA MISSION (PRESBYTERIAN).

(Superintendent—Mr. J. Winn.)

It is my privilege to present the annual Report of Weipa Mission for the year 1st April, 1957, to 31st March, 1958.

STAFF.

Mr. J. S. Winn—Superintendent.
 Mrs. B. S. Winn—Matron (Honorary).
 Miss M. Elms—Teacher.
 Mr. L. Brown—Technical Assistant Carpenter.
 Mrs. Brown.
 Mr. L. J. Gordon—Technical Assistant Sawmiller.
 Mr. Len Heading—Technical Assistant Sawmiller.
 Mrs. M. Heading.
 Mrs. J. Bess.

Mr. Tom Bartlett was Acting Superintendent during my absence from the Station on three months furlough; I returned to the Mission on the 11th April, 1957. My thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett for a job well done. This couple and their family were transferred to Aurukun Mission shortly after my arrival.

Miss Elms was a new member to the staff at Weipa. Mrs. Winn and I had the pleasure of meeting her in Brisbane prior to her departure for the Mission, and on our arrival she was well established in the work as teacher and rendering much help with the book-keeping.

SCHOOL.

Miss Elms, a fully qualified School Teacher, has four native teachers to assist her in the teaching of 37 scholars. Classes are graded I, II, III, and V. Satisfactory progress is reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Les Brown occupied one of the Mission cottages, and as Carpenter there was much scope for Mr. Brown's activities. Mr. and Mrs. Brown left Weipa for the South in June, 1957.

Mr. Leith Gordon proved a great friend to the Mission, spending much of his valuable time in Brisbane advising our Aboriginal Committee on matters pertaining to the establishment of a Sawmill at Weipa Mission. Later, he volunteered his services, giving up his employment in Brisbane and coming to Weipa, to erect the Sawmill, a task which he, as a retired Sawmiller, had much experience: Arriving in April and departing in December, 1957. On behalf of the Presbyterian Church and all members of the Staff at Weipa, I have much pleasure in placing on record our warmest thanks to Mr. Gordon.

Mr. and Mrs. Heading and family, with Mrs. Bess, arrived at Weipa Mission together on 24th June, from which date we had the pleasure of their services and company till Mr. and Mrs. Heading were transferred to Mapoon Mission on the 26th August, 1957.

Mr. J. Bess was appointed Master of the Mission Motor Vessel "Reliance," a task which keeps him most of his time away from Weipa, while Mrs. Bess took up her abode in one of the Mission cottages. Her services are much appreciated.

We were most fortunate during this period in having three Organists, Mrs. Bess, Mrs. Heading, and Miss Elms, a great boon in our daily service.

POPULATION.

Full Bloods	173
Half Caste	1
Male Adults	68
Female Adults	63
Births	3
Deaths	5
Marriages	2

HEALTH.

No serious epidemics occurred and the general standard of health remained good throughout the year.

CONDUCT.

Throughout the year conduct has been fair. No communal disturbances, or domestic squabbles worthy of note have been reported. Minor complaints all satisfactorily dealt with.

SOCIAL WELFARE.

The inauguration of two picture shows weekly has been a source of interest for young and old.

The regular daily employment had some effect on Saturday afternoon Soccer Games. Hunting in companionship with white employees held some attraction, along with organised fishing trips.

Some of the women keep themselves busy in handicraft work in a small way, making feather flowers, shell necklaces, and an occasional basket.

The additional spending power among the native population has certainly been beneficial to the community, but has placed heavier burdens on the Staff entailing increased ordering, selling, and book-keeping.

AGRICULTURE.

Little activity observed among the people in gardening due to full time employment with the new industry in our area. Mission garden results below standard but crops of Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkins, and Beans were gathered and there was a good yield of Papaws, a fair crop of Bananas, and Mangoes in season.

STOCK WORK.

Apart from two periodical musters, nothing progressive was accomplished. Mustering yards were repaired and fences checked. Forty bullocks were slaughtered for Supply of fresh meat. No sales were made from Weipa Mission stock.

INDUSTRY.

No male or female labour was employed outside the Mission reserve other than that used by Enterprise Exploration Company, operating from Weipa Mission. The number employed by this Company at the commencement of the year was 40 males and 8 females. At the close of the year under review 31 males and 6 females were employed. These figures refer to Weipa Mission natives.

The majority of those employed acquitted themselves favourably and under supervision gave general satisfaction. After lengthy periods of employment a falling away in sense of responsibility gradually became apparent.

From the Mission Superintendent's point of view the ideal method of employment would have been based on some rotary basis. Two months employment and possibly two weeks off. I feel a better standard of work would be maintained. Companies however are not appreciative

of this view as such a system breaks up team work at the moment of change and possibly adds to the difficulties of keeping employment registers and compiling of wages, plus tax assessment adjustments.

With long years of native environment, it was difficult for the native to tie himself for indefinite periods to the wheels of industry. The tendency to slacken his efforts brought about the desired effect: a spell off from employment.

I have nothing but admiration with the patience and understanding shown by the various representatives of the Enterprise Company who had the oversight of the natives while at work and apart from the work, a most friendly atmosphere has prevailed.

I feel it was most fortunate to have been associated with Mr. Brian McNeice, the Enterprise Company's field engineer in charge of operations at Weipa. Our friendly relations at all times enabled us to discuss and come to harmonious conclusions on all things pertaining to Reserve rights, employment of labour, and team work wherever it was possible to assist each other to the mutual advantage of both Company and Mission. I am mindful of the early stages of radio communications, stores, air strips, planes, boats, pontoons, and truck transport, and forms of entertainment, etc.

All natives employed by the Enterprise Exploration Company have been enrolled as members of the Australian Workers' Union. Award rates of wages have been operative from the first day of employment with the Company at Weipa.

Much publicity has thrown the limelight on Weipa Mission and a world wide interest has been created. This is evidenced by the increased services by Ansett-A.N.A., ever increasing freight loads, ever increasing numbers of visitors from all parts of the world.

Our visitors book does not register all who have visited Weipa but over two hundred have received Mission hospitality during the period under review. Apart from Directors of the Companies concerned many notables are recorded—Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord Kirkwood, Mr. Fell, Queensland's British Trade Commissioner, Baron Von Krupp, Senators Beale and Maher, Mr. Wentworth, Mr. E. Evans, Queensland's Minister for Mines, Dr. H. W. Noble, Minister for Health and Home Affairs, various Parliamentary delegations, Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, Rev. R. Park, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. V. Coombes, General Secretary of the Australian Board of Missions, accompanied by Rev. James Sweet.

Many of these visitors were concerned with the welfare of our Aboriginal Missions present and future in relation to and with the development of the Bauxite industry in this area. Parliament and Press have indicated what plans have been made for our Mission people in the immediate future and on that there is no need for any elaboration on my part.

Thanks are due to:—

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia operating from their base at Charters Towers throughout the year under review. Dr.

Tim O'Leary did all that one could desire; his monthly clinic was looked forward to, by both sick and healthy. Each time a full and busy clinic, and in addition attending to the needs of the employees (white) of the Exploration Company.

The Cairns Ambulance Air Service at all times ready on call, to bearers and pilots our sincere thanks.

Dr. Meredith, Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, and members of his Hospital staff for their unfailing help to our Mission people; the knowledge of a daily medical Schedule is most reassuring and lifts a weight of responsibility from our shoulders.

The Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs and members of his Staff particularly who, over the radio, do so much work of vital importance to the smooth and efficient running of the Mission stations, and for all material, financial, and wise counsel given throughout the year.

Lastly, as the name "Presbyterian Church Mission" implies, we owe a debt of gratitude to the many organisations who, by prayer, works, and financial assistance do so much to help and encourage the Mission Staff and our Aboriginal people. Thank you Sunday School Scholars and Teachers, Members of the Fellowship, Pathfinders and Junior Mission Groups; how comforting and inspiring it is to all who work on our Mission stations to know of the loyal practical loving help given by all members of the P.W.M.U. Thanks Ladies.

The Rev. James Sweet and members of the Aboriginal Missions Committee and the Office Staff we are conscious of our many failings and like you, have experienced many frustrations, but through it all we have been workers together with Our Lord and Master for the extension of His Kingdom teaching our aboriginal people to strive for all that is highest in moral, physical and spiritual living.

APPENDIX 18.

MAPOON MISSION. (Presbyterian.)

Superintendent—Rev. G. L. Filmer.

Staff—

Mrs. Filmer, S.R.N.—Matron and Medical Work.

Mr. F. R. Green—Assistant.

Mrs. Green—Temporary Teacher.

STATISTICS.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	8
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	4
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	3

There have been several staff changes, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher leaving in June, 1957, their position being taken by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Green, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Len. Heading. In April, 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Heading were transferred to Weipa, while Reverend and Mrs. G. L. Filmer arrived early in May to take up their appointment as Superintendent and Matron. Mr. and Mrs. Green have now become their

assistants. The mission records its gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Heading for their services to Mapoon, and wishes them every happiness in their new sphere of work.

EMPLOYMENT.

The coming of the mining companies to the north has meant that the majority of the younger men were able to find work fairly close at hand. Ten men have been constantly employed by the mission, fourteen on the stock plant, several by Enterprise Exploration Ltd., and the remainder by Aluminium Laboratories of Canada Ltd.

RATIONS.

Both quality and quantity of foodstuffs are being reassessed to meet the demands of our increasing population. The fish trap has been re-erected, and up to date has been highly successful, supplying both children and workers with added protein in their diet. Full use is also being made of coconuts in the children's meals.

CATTLE.

The year just ended has brought many difficult problems in the cattle work. Movements of the mining companies in our areas have made the cattle more timid, and scattered them further afield. This meant that new yards have had to be built, and existing yards have had to be rebuilt because of fires originating from mining operations. The total count of beasts at the end of the year came to 1,120 head. This figure covers only the cattle inside the block fence. This year we are working full time on the remainder of the herds beyond the block fence, to bring them under control. With new bulls from Aurukun, we should see a considerable improvement in our cattle during the coming year.

MEDICAL WORK.

The health of the people has been in general, satisfactory, the main problems arising from diet deficiency. This however, is being dealt with, and should not again give cause for concern. Remedial tablets are given to every child daily and special attention is paid to pensioners and mothers of young children. A mass hook-worm treatment was carried out at the end of June. Most of the expectant mothers travelled up to Thursday Island for their confinements, and we are indebted to the hospital authorities there. Our thanks are also due to Dr. Meredith for his ready advice on all occasions, to Dr. O'Leary and other relieving doctors of the R.F.D.S., and to the Cairns Aerial Ambulance.

EDUCATION.

Unfortunately our school has been without the services of a white teacher for some time, and Mrs. Green continues to act in this capacity until an appointment can be made. Needlework classes for the girls form a special feature of the programme. One native man and five women are employed as teachers, and the standard of the work is very fair. Sixty boys and girls are enrolled at the present moment.

MISSION ACTIVITIES.

Many of the women are constantly engaged in handicraft work, such as the making of feather flowers, cockle-shell necklaces, and fans

from Pandanys fronds. Ready markets have opened up for these products. The men organize hunting parties for crocodile skins, this being a year round activity except during the Wet season.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

A short Gospel service is held every morning in the church, with the exception of Saturday, a full service being conducted on Sunday morning. Attendances have been generally good, although some improvement could be shown in the number present on week days. The children receive regular religious instruction and attend the morning service as the commencement of their day's programme. A Bible study class is held in the church as an evening activity once a week.

GENERAL.

Some instability and general unrest in the mission can be accounted for by the fact that no decision has yet been reached as to whether the mission will remain at its present site, or to be moved to a place yet to be chosen. It will be appreciated that this is not an easy decision to make as many factors are involved and the opinions of several different bodies have to be considered. Urgent repairs to the mission building have become necessary, and many of the village houses need renewing, so we are naturally hoping that some development may soon be forthcoming. In the meantime we are settling ourselves to the task of effecting what improvements we can by our own methods, and with the help and prayer of those who have the welfare of Mapoon on their hearts.

APPENDIX 19.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.

Archdeacon C. G. Brown, B.A.
 Rev. J. A. Dobbs.
 Miss P. Duncan.
 Miss E. M. Ivy, B.A.
 Miss M. St. George.
 Mr. F. H. Ayre.

STAFF CHANGES.

Miss E. M. Ivy joined the Staff at the end of June as Head Mistress of the School, Miss P. Duncan left the Mission in August. Miss M. St. George arrived in September to assist in the School. Mr. J. A. Dobbs joined the Staff in January and was made a Deacon by the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria in March. Mr. F. H. Ayre was granted three months leave at the end of November to obtain medical attention in Sydney.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

Daily services are held regularly during the year.

VILLAGE COUNCIL.

At the annual election held in January the following councillors were elected:—Jacob Abednego, Andai Ware, Nasonah Kris, Francis Obah, Lui Mills. Jacob Abednego was appointed Chairman by the Bishop.

CONDUCT.

On the whole the conduct of the people at the Mission has been excellent.

VILLAGE HOUSES.

Three dwellings in the village have been completed.

THE SCHOOL.

The Staff consists of two European and three village teachers. The school was open 197 days. Average number on roll:—Boys 36, Girls 34. Average daily attendance:—Boys 34, Girls 29. At a breaking-up function before the Christmas vacation prizes were distributed and a concert given by the children. Inter-House sports were held in May and a School picnic on the Queen's Birthday holiday.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

The College year began with 13 students, 4 were discharged during the year.

NEW COLLEGE.

The construction of the new college by Student labour under the supervision of Mr. F. H. Ayre, Diocesan builder, has made progress.

DISPENSARY.

Rev. J. A. Dobbs took over the care of the Dispensary which is open daily for medical aid. All children received three Salk vaccine injections given by visiting medical parties.

HEALTH.

The health of the people has been generally good. There have been no serious epidemics of sickness.

STORE.

The Mission Store is open three days a week under the management of Rev. J. A. Dobbs.

BOAT.

The Mission boat, "Florence Buchanan," normally makes a fortnightly trip to Thursday Island, principally to bring back goods for the Store, and is ready at all times for emergencies.

JUBILEE.

The Jubilee of the Mission was observed on 19th May with Church services and feasting and dancing. A monument in concrete consisting of a pillar ten feet high, surmounted by a cross, was unveiled to mark the landing place of the first missionary, Deaconess Florence G. Buchanan, on 19th May, 1908.

OBITUARY.

One person died on the Mission during the year, Tom Oba, at the age of approximately 85 years. He was the last survivor of the original South Sea Islanders, having been brought at an early age from the Loyalty group of islands to work in the Queensland sugar cane plantations.

VISITORS.

In March Mr. W. Williams, a mining expert, by arrangement with the Australian Board of Missions, visited the Mission to investigate the extent and quality of the wolfram deposits on Moa Island. In June a party connected with the Flying Doctor Scheme visited the Mission to survey the area for a site for an airstrip.

THANKS.

The Mission expresses its thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy-Director, and their officers, for their unfailing and courteous assistance at all times in the affairs of the Mission.

**Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the
Twelve months ended 30th June 1958**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Department of Health and Home Affairs

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www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/qld_prot_list.html
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